

Epilepsy Snapshot!

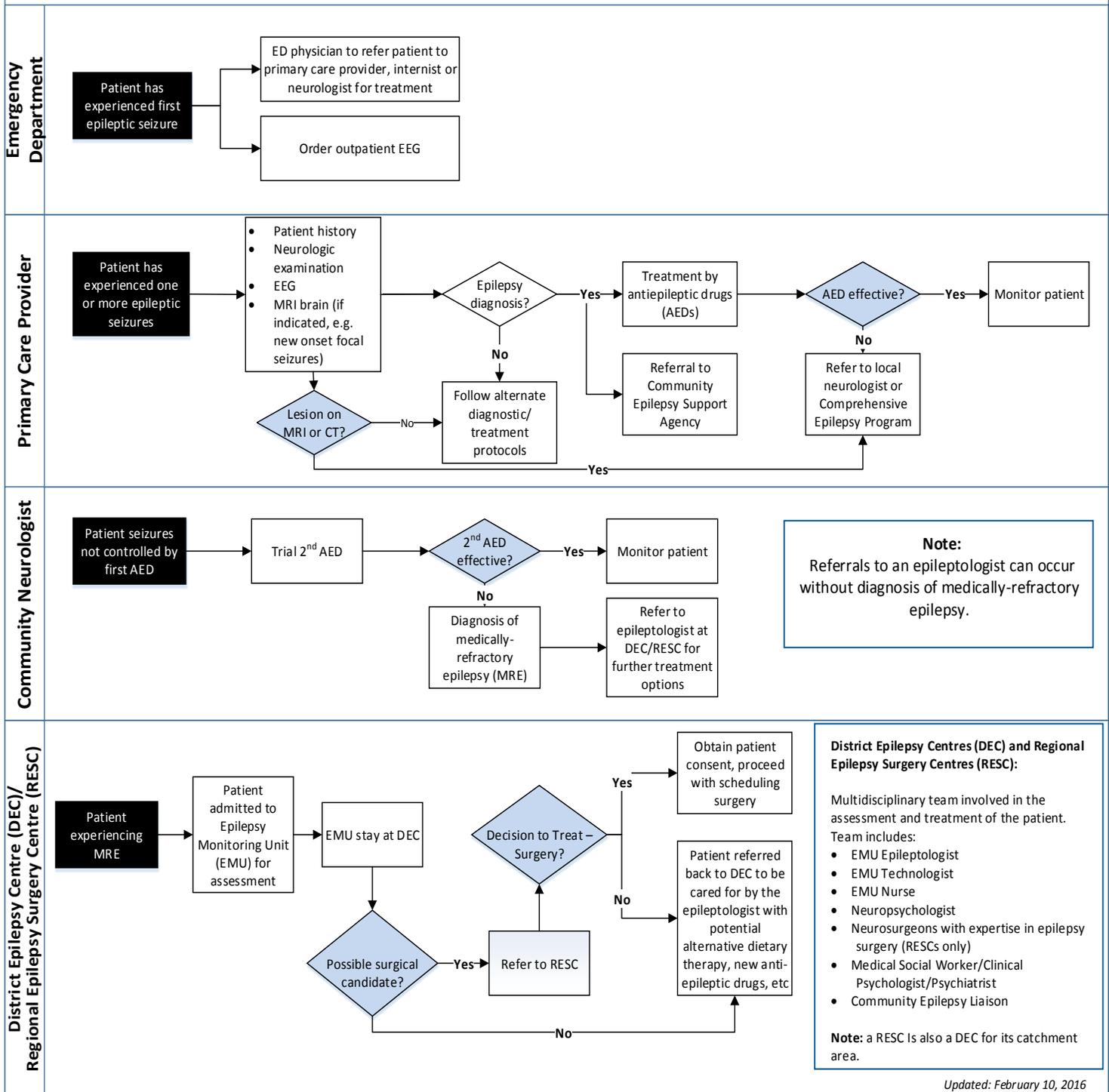
The Provincial Guidelines for the Management of Medically-Refractory Epilepsy in Adults and Children who are not candidates for Epilepsy Surgery

- ✓ Epilepsy affects around 95,000 Ontarians ([Ng et al. 2015](#)).
- ✓ Each year an estimated 6,500 Ontarians will develop epilepsy, and 1,950 (approximately 30%) will have a type that cannot be controlled by seizure medication, referred to as medically-refractory epilepsy ([Tellez-Zenteno et al. 2004](#); [Wiebe et al. 1999](#)).
- ✓ Surgical intervention may result in eliminating seizures. However, approximately one third of the individuals diagnosed with medically-refractory epilepsy will not be considered candidates for surgery after assessment, as they would not benefit from it ([HQO 2012](#)).
- ✓ Epilepsy surgery should never be considered a last resort for any adult or child with medically refractory epilepsy ([Jette et al. 2014](#); [Ibrahim et al. 2014](#)).
- ✓ There is limited evidence on the management of medically-refractory epilepsy. A number of factors may predict whether epilepsy is refractory, including type of epilepsy, underlying syndrome, etiology, seizure frequency, density and clustering, environmental factors and genetic factors affecting anticonvulsant pharmacodynamics ([French 2007](#); [Mohanraj and Brodie 2006](#)).
- ✓ The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) established the Epilepsy Implementation Task Force (EITF) to implement epilepsy system improvements. The [Provincial Guidelines for the Management of Medically-Refractory Epilepsy in Adults and Children Who are not Candidates for Epilepsy Surgery](#) have been developed to guide evidence-based practice for Ontario healthcare providers who provide care for patients with medically-refractory epilepsy.
- ✓ Key areas of focus in this guideline are antiepileptic drugs, immunotherapy, diet, neurostimulation and non-pharmacological considerations.
- ✓ **All individuals with medically-refractory epilepsy should be referred to a District Epilepsy Centre (DEC) or Regional Epilepsy Surgery Centre (RESC) to receive thorough assessment and individualized treatment. Therapies described in this guideline ([Provincial Guidelines for the Management of Medically-Refractory Epilepsy in Adults and Children Who are not Candidates for Epilepsy Surgery](#)) may be used in combination and under the care of a multidisciplinary care team, co-managed with the individual's Primary Care Provider.**

Please refer to the **Epilepsy Surgery Patient Pathway** on Page 2...

Epilepsy Surgery Patient Pathway

Epilepsy Patient by Provider



Updated: February 10, 2016