Position Statement

Long-term Monitoring (LTM) for Epilepsy

LTM Neurodiagnostic Patient Observer and LTM Neurodiagnostic EEG Data Analyst

Patients in the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) are admitted for classification of spells, seizure characterization and quantification, medication management, or evaluation for surgery. During the admission, patients are subject to activation procedures that may include sleep deprivation, photic stimulation, hyperventilation, and antiepileptic drug manipulation in an attempt to capture their typical events. While we recognize that a variety of models are currently in practice, it is ASET’s position that in order to promote and maintain a safe patient environment and best practice in the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit, the patient should never be left unattended.

LTM Neurodiagnostic Patient Observer:

The LTM Neurodiagnostic Patient Observer is responsible for continuous observation of the patient, being either physically present in the patient’s room or via real-time remote video. This is necessary in order to recognize behavior changes, events or other activity requiring response by Epilepsy Monitoring Unit staff. The LTM Neurodiagnostic Patient Observer must possess knowledge of the video monitoring system and camera controls and maintain communication with the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit personnel as defined in the facility’s policies and procedures. Critical events must be defined and written protocol for reporting critical events must be detailed in the facility’s policies and procedures. The Neurodiagnostic Patient Observer meets competency and supervision requirements as defined by each facility.

The Neurodiagnostic Patient Observer is not qualified to analyze EEG data unless the credential R. EEG T. has been attained.

ASET recognizes the value of a well-trained, experienced and credentialed Neurodiagnostic professional in the analysis of EEG data being collected and the time sensitivity when this information is needed in the early diagnosis and treatment of electrographic events. Therefore, for optimal LTM services, the EEG Data
Analyst as defined below is preferred as the staff providing continuous patient observation.

**LTM Neurodiagnostic EEG Data Analyst:**

It is ASET’s position that qualified, credentialed EEG Technologists (R. EEG T.) are responsible for the EEG data review, analysis and reporting as detailed in the facility policy and procedures. The LTM Neurodiagnostic EEG Data Analyst also monitors the patient video and EEG in order to analyze and report behavioral and electrographic activity that requires response by the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit staff. The EEG Data Analyst may or may not also act as the Neurodiagnostic Patient Observer.

The LTM Neurodiagnostic Data Analyst position meets the criteria for a Neurodiagnostic Technologist II as defined in ASET’s Neurodiagnostic Practice Levels. The Neurodiagnostic Technologist II has proven competence by successfully passing examination by the American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential Technologists, Inc. (ABRET) obtaining a credential in Electroencephalography (R. EEG T). (For a detailed position description, please refer to ASET’s *Handbook of Neurodiagnostic Job Descriptions and Competencies*.)

It is further suggested that advanced certification for long-term monitoring (CLTM) is desired, but not currently required for this role.

Critical events must be defined and written protocol for reporting critical events must be detailed in the facility policy and procedures. The LTM Neurodiagnostic Data Analyst meets competency and supervision requirements as defined by each facility’s policies and procedures.

--- Approved by the ASET Board of Trustees January 25, 2013