



## Spells (Transient Episodes of Altered Consciousness)

### Pre-Referral Considerations:

1. Warning signs such as olfactory, gustatory, visual or abdominal auras, migraine history, seizure history, cardiac history

### Red Flags:

1. Consider imaging, alternate referral or emergent referral
2. Recent blood pressure medication changes, chest pressure/pain, palpitations, or orthostatic symptoms

### Lab Studies:

1. CBC, CMP

### Imaging Studies:

1. Please send images (CD) if any studies such as head CT, CTA head and neck, or MRI brain available
2. Also include cardiac work up such as echocardiogram, cardiac monitoring if done

### What to Avoid Ordering:

1. Don't order MRI brain, carotid Doppler or other vascular studies, EEG if have not been done

### Comments:

1. Duration and frequency of spells
2. History of altered consciousness or loss of consciousness
3. Abnormal movements with episodes
4. Any focal symptoms with spells
5. Difficulty with speech/language or any confusion after spells
6. If patient has any residual deficits or complete recovery
7. History of similar episodes in the past

Our providers prefer to review any imaging studies themselves.

**Note:** Unnecessary testing should be avoided; however, if a primary care provider has a high index of suspicion of a specific diagnosis that merits further testing, appropriate pre-referral testing could be ordered.