



**BC Epilepsy
Society**

E-NEWSLETTER

*Improving lives.
Inspiring courage.*

January 15, 2015

New Developments in Epilepsy

THE TOP FIVE OF 2014

With 2015 now here, it is interesting to reflect upon the medical developments that were made in 2014. This year had quite a few advances in aspects of medical care, treatments, genetics, and technology in epilepsy.

These included a new clinical definition of epilepsy being adopted by an international epilepsy organization, a new medication being funded by BC Pharmacare (perampanel), new computer programs developed to help predict and detect seizures, and the beginning of clinical research into the impact of cannabinoid (CBD) use in children with severe and medication-resistant epilepsy.

The latest blog post on our [website](#) explains these developments and the importance they will have for people with epilepsy. [Read about them here.](#)

To stay up-to-date with breaking epilepsy news and research studies throughout the year you can follow our [Twitter](#) account, [Facebook](#) page, and check out our [newsletters](#).

Wishing you health, happiness, and hope for 2015.

Let's Get Silly!

PURPLE DAY CONTEST

[Purple Day](#) is a day dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy. On March 26th people around the world are encouraged to wear purple and host events in support of epilepsy awareness.

This year to help celebrate Purple Day, the BC Epilepsy Society is having a fun (and a little silly) contest to promote this in a positive and entertaining way. We are inviting people to host wacky purple-inspired activities and creative awareness raising initiatives. Great prizes will be available to participants who show off their best stuff.

Below are some ideas to try out:

A purple-inspired costume contest, purple pancake day party, face painting competition, purple tie day, a purple jello slip and slide, purple pooch walk, purple flamingo lawn display, or whatever other fun (and safe) ideas you have. Be sure you let us know what you are thinking about doing ahead of time so we can help you and promote it. Note: March is Epilepsy Awareness Month in Canada so this activity could take place anytime during that month – not just on Purple Day.

We also have a variety of epilepsy awareness and educational materials available to distribute for these and other Purple Day activities and initiatives.

For more information about Purple Day activities and the contest, please contact Jas Lachar at 604-875-6704 or at services@bcepilepsy.com

In the News

KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE

Rare Epilepsy Network (REN) Study

Do you or your loved one have a rare form of epilepsy? If so, there is a new initiative to help you. This is called the Rare Epilepsy Network (REN). This organization is registering people with rare types of epilepsy in order to conduct specialized research on how to improve the lives of people who have them. You can sign up to participate on their website here: <https://ren.rti.org/>

Shortage of Dilantin Oral Suspension 30 mg/5mL

There is currently a shortage of Dilantin (phenytoin oral suspension) 30 mg/5mL due to a manufacturing issue. The expected resupply rate given by the supplier is January 30th. Please note that the other dosages and forms of this medication are reported to be at typical supply levels. If you or your child takes this medication, contact your health care provider. Do not change the prescribed dosage unless directed by your health care provider. [Click here](#) for more information.

Living Well with Epilepsy Video Series Launched

A series of films to help people with epilepsy who have a learning disability or intellectual disability have just been released by an UK epilepsy organization. The film called *Living Well with Epilepsy* tells four people's personal stories about how they are living well with epilepsy and how they deal with the challenges associated with it. It is an inspirational look at how people with epilepsy can succeed even if they have cognitive difficulties. You can watch the video on [YouTube](#).

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which provides education, advocacy, and support.*