UNC Interdisciplinary Parkinson’s Disease Clinic

UNC Chapel Hill
Movement Disorders Center, Dept. of Neurology
National Parkinson Foundation Center of Excellence

The UNC Movement Disorders Clinic offers an off-shoot specialty clinic for individuals with Parkinson’s disease! This is a half-day, comprehensive evaluation performed by an interdisciplinary team of UNC healthcare professionals who specialize in Parkinson’s care.

THIS CLINIC IS MOST APPROPRIATE IF:

- Physical, cognitive and/or mood symptoms of your Parkinson’s disease are interfering with your work and leisure activities or general quality of life.
- Your current treatment plan is not working or you have complications from medical therapy.
- You or your family need advice and counseling on coping with Parkinson’s disease.
- You are functioning well and/or more newly diagnosed, but you would like some baseline measurements taken and would like to receive information and exercises to help maintain functioning over time.
WHAT TO EXPECT:

1. Prior to your appointment, the social worker will complete a full Clinical Social Work evaluation with you over the phone, and gather information about your concerns and goals. This information will be shared with the other clinicians involved to prepare them in advance for your appointment.

2. On the evaluation day, you will come to the Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic for four hours, where you will receive…
   a. A full Neurological evaluation,
   b. A full Physical Therapy evaluation,
   c. A full Occupational Therapy evaluation,
   d. A full Speech-Language Pathology evaluation.

3. You will leave at the end of the last evaluation with a packet of general information. The interdisciplinary team will then meet to discuss your case and share their recommendations.

4. The team assessment and recommendations (as well as information on how to pursue various therapies) will be typed up and mailed to you within 3-4 weeks of the appointment. They will also be sent to your referring physician and any other physician or family member you may choose.

5. After receiving our team’s recommendations, you will be contacted by the Center Coordinator & Clinical Social Worker, Jessica Shurer. She will review the clinic recommendations and suggested treatment plan with you and provide you with assistance and referrals in following up with the options that you would like to pursue.

WHAT WE CAN DO:

- This is a patient-centered clinic. We will provide a thorough list of treatment options and recommendations, but it is up to you and you’re your family to decide upon what you would like to pursue and when. We will be available to provide assistance if and when you choose to follow-up with a treatment recommendation.

- We are happy to work with your referring primary care physician or neurologist in order to provide you with the best care possible. This is only a consultation.
CLINIC COSTS:

- The cost is different depending on each patient’s insurance, so be sure to check with your insurance company ahead of time to learn about what portion of the costs you will be held responsible for.
- The neurology appointment should cost the same as your usual neurology visits.
- Charges for each of the allied health clinicians (PT, OT, SLP) reflect what regular evaluations by these clinicians would generally cost. Our allied health clinicians are billed as hospital based, which means that if you have not met your deductible, you may be responsible for the full charges involved with your visit.
- We will put you in touch with our financial counselor before your appointment to help look into your insurance coverage.

HOW TO BE REFERRED TO THE INTERDISCIPLINARY CLINIC:

- We require a physician’s referral. The referral form for our Interdisciplinary Parkinson’s Clinic is available online at http://www.med.unc.edu/neurology/divisions/movement-disorders/
- Physicians should fax these referral forms to 919-966-2922, ATTN: Jessica Shurer

Interested individuals should contact Jessica Shurer, Center Coordinator and Clinical Social Worker, at 919-843-1657 or jshurer@neurology.unc.edu.