



UNC Interdisciplinary Parkinson's Disease Clinic

Movement Disorders Center, Dept. of Neurology
Parkinson's Foundation Center of Excellence
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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 have never been seen by any rehabilitative therapists or it has been a long time since you did rehab therapies.
- 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.
- This clinic is *not* for people who are seeking a diagnosis of Parkinson's.





WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE APPOINTMENT:

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 history, concerns, goals, lifestyle, mood, etc. This information will be shared with the other clinicians involved to prepare them in advance for your appointment, so they can tailor their assessments and recommendations to you.
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 and resources. The interdisciplinary team will then meet to discuss your case and share their recommendations.
4. The team's assessment and recommendations 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 notes/recommendations, you will be contacted by the Center Coordinator & Clinical Social Worker, Jessica Shurer. She will review the notes and recommendations with you and provide you with assistance and referrals in following up with the options that you would like to pursue in your local area.

WHAT WE CAN DO:

- This is only a one-time consultation. If you live locally you are welcome to return to see any of our therapists. You are also welcome to return for the full evaluation after a year or two for comparison. 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 a patient-centered clinic. We will provide thorough information on treatment options and recommendations, but it is up to you and your family to decide upon what you would like to pursue and when. We will be available to provide assistance if/when you choose to follow-up with a treatment recommendation.



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.
 - ***We will put you in touch with our financial counselor before your appointment to help look into your insurance coverage and estimate out-of-pocket costs.***
- The neurology appointment should cost the same as your usual neurology visits.
- Charges for each of the 3 allied health clinicians (PT, OT, SLP) reflect what regular evaluations by these clinicians would generally cost with your insurance. Our allied health clinicians are billed as ***outpatient, hospital-based.***
 - This means that if you have not met your deductible or your insurance does not cover “hospital-based” rehabilitation, you may be responsible for the full charges involved with your visit.
 - Also keep in mind that if you are currently doing outpatient rehabilitation at a different facility, Home Health rehabilitation, or are in an inpatient rehabilitation facility or under hospice care, insurance may not cover our clinic's rehab appointments.
 - ***For people with Medicare:*** Medicare typically covers 80% of outpatient, hospital-based rehabilitation therapies. It has a cap on how much it will cover within a 6-month time period, so if you have done a lot of rehabilitation therapy for Parkinson's recently, Medicare may not cover these appointments again at this time.



HOW TO BE REFERRED TO THE INTERDISCIPLINARY CLINIC:

- We require a referral from neurologist or family doctor, as well as recent neurology notes.
- The referral form for our Interdisciplinary Parkinson's Clinic is available online at:
<http://www.med.unc.edu/neurology/divisions/movement-disorders/npfcoe/interdisciplinary-parkinson-disease-clinic>
- The physician should fax this referral forms, as well as demographic and insurance information and recent neurology/relevant notes to:
919-966-2922 ATTN: Jessica Shurer
- All people referred to or interested in this specialty clinic will be screened first.
- If you were referred to this specialty clinic or are a physician and had sent a referral, but the patient did not receive a call, please contact Jessica Shurer to make sure the referral was received and was not mistakenly sent to the regular neurology clinic.

*If you have questions, please contact Jessica Shurer,
Center Coordinator and Clinical Social Worker,
at 919-843-1657 or jshurer@neurology.unc.edu.*