

Service:
Movement Disorders

Admission for Assessment Regarding Suitability for Treatment with Duodopa



You have been asked to attend hospital for a pre-operative assessment to establish your suitability for treatment with Duodopa. This leaflet explains what the assessment entails.

What does the assessment entail?

We will carry out thorough assessments and observations of your motor and non-motor symptoms, as well as your psychological wellbeing. This will include an assessment of your cognition and memory.

During your assessment we will be establishing whether you will benefit from Duodopa. We will assess you in the 'off' and 'on' states (see glossary), measuring your response to levodopa, including any side effects.

Following the assessment, the team will decide whether or not Duodopa is the most appropriate treatment for you. We may request further investigations or assessments prior to making the final decision. This is to help us determine whether DBS is the most appropriate treatment for you.

Leading up to your assessment

Please ensure that you are not constipated prior to your assessment as constipation can affect the absorption of the medication we will give you for the 'on' assessment. If you need advice about this, please contact your GP or pharmacist.

If you are taking a long-acting Dopamine Agonist (see glossary), you will need to stop this medication 48 hours prior

to your assessment. It is important that you remain on all other medications until you receive further instructions.

Questionnaires and diary

You will be sent questionnaires and a motor fluctuation diary to complete before your assessment. It is important that you complete the questionnaires, with help from a relative or carer if required, while you are in an 'on' state. If you are unsure of the term 'on' please see the glossary. The diary is to be completed over four days. This will inform us about the symptoms you experience during the day and night over a period of time. If you require any further information on how to complete the questionnaires or diary please contact your Movement Disorder Nurse Specialist at Southmead.

Admission day:

Please phone the hospital on the morning of your admission to confirm bed availability. The details of who to contact are recorded in your admission letter.

On admission:

You will have already stopped taking any long-acting Dopamine Agonists. You will be asked to stop all other Parkinson's medications from 18:00 on the evening of your admission. Night sedation and analgesia can be prescribed. If you require them, please ask the ward nurse responsible for your care.

Length of stay:

This will be confirmed on your admission letter, but it is likely to be one to two nights. There may be outstanding assessments to be completed on the day of your discharge, or you may be seen by members of the team. Therefore, please do not make travel arrangements too early in the day.

Glossary

Duodopa: Duodopa is a gel containing levodopa and carbidopa. It is delivered directly into the intestine via a tube that passes through the abdominal wall.

Dopamine Agonist: A group of drugs which can be used to treat symptoms of Parkinson's.

E.g. Cabergoline (Cabaser, unbranded form)

Pramipexole PR (Mirapexin)

Ropinirole (ReQuip XL)

Rotigotine (Neupro)

Apomorphine: A medication that is given by subcutaneous injection or infusion for the treatment of Parkinson's.

'On' state: Your medication is working and you are relatively normal; more mobile, less stiff and able to do things more easily.

'Off' state: Your medication is not working and you are slower, stiffer or relatively less mobile. This can also mean when you have long episodes of freezing of gait.

Dyskinesia: Involuntary twisting or turning movements. Dyskinesia can affect all limbs, the neck, mouth and speech. These are an effect of the medication and occur in an 'on' state. NOTE: Tremor (shaking back and forth) is not dyskinesia.

Checklist for admission

Please bring the following:

- Your medication in the original packaging and, if possible, a medication list/prescription. If you are on Apomorphine please ensure that you bring enough needles and administration lines for the duration of your stay.
- Your completed questionnaires and motor fluctuation diary.
- Comfortable day clothes and sensible footwear for your assessment.
- Night wear and washbag for your overnight stay.
- Spectacles, if worn (you will need these during the assessment).
- Walking aid, if used (you will need this during the assessment).
- Snacks, e.g. biscuits/cereal bars (which you should bring to your assessment).
- You may wish to bring books, magazines etc. for use during your stay.

**PATIENT
APPROVED** 

How to contact us:



Advanced Treatment Service
(Deep Brain Stimulation &
Duodopa Therapy)
Bristol Brain Centre
Elgar House, Southmead Hospital
BS10 5NB



**Daily Nurse Clinic Line (Mondays to
Fridays): 0117 414 8269**



www.nbt.nhs.uk

If you or the individual you are caring for need support reading this leaflet please ask a member of staff for advice.

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