

Service:  
Movement Disorders

# Deep Brain Stimulation Activation Visit



**Date and time of activation:**

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On the day of your activation visit please come to The Bristol Brain Centre, Southmead Hospital, Bristol, BS10 5NB and report to reception.

**Your Movement Disorder Nurse Specialist is:**

.....

You will receive a letter recording the details of your appointment at The Bristol Brain Centre for activation (switching on) and initial programming of your stimulator.

We recommend that you arrange for a friend, carer or relative to accompany you while you are in an “off” state on the morning of your visit. If you are travelling to Bristol the night before your visit, please ensure you have booked appropriate accommodation and transport to the Bristol Brain Centre in advance.

Before booking transport home, please check with your Movement Disorder Nurse Specialist what time you are likely to be able to leave the hospital.

## **What to expect during your activation visit**

This initial activation and programming visit may take a number of hours, or even the whole day, and you may find this tiring. We will look to schedule a break.

During the visit, we will assess how well the stimulation is helping to control your symptoms and monitor for any side effects on the various stimulation settings. We will ask you to report how you feel at regular intervals and ask you to perform motor tasks (some of the tasks you did during your pre-operative assessment).

In order to accurately observe and record your response to the different stimulation settings, it is important that you attend

clinic in an 'off' state. Therefore, please stop your Parkinson's medications from midnight the day before your appointment.

We will programme the stimulator so as you go home on the settings that give you the best control of your symptoms. Once we have identified these settings, we will ask you to take Parkinson's medication so as we can observe your symptoms with both stimulation and medication. This will assist us to adjust your medication now that you are also receiving stimulation.

During this visit, you will be shown how to use the patient programmer to adjust stimulation settings within the parameters we have set. We will show you how to check the battery life of your generator, and if you have a rechargeable system, we will also show you how to recharge the battery. You will have some printed patient information about this.

In the early stages after this initial visit, it is likely that you will need to visit the hospital again, at least once, for further programming. This is to ensure that you achieve the best results from stimulation. When appropriate, we will also look at changing your medications regime at these visits.

## Checklist for activation

### 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.
  
- Patient programmer and stimulator charging equipment (please ensure equipment is fully charged before coming in).
  
- Lunch and/or snacks. There are cafés on site, but you may wish to bring your own food.
  
- Your completed wound audit questionnaire.





**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](http://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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