

# Nerve Conduction Studies and Electromyography (NCS/EMG)

An information guide



# **Nerve Conduction Studies and Electromyography (NCS/EMG)**

## **Nerve Conduction Studies**

These are tests of the nerves in the upper and lower limbs, and occasionally elsewhere in the body. The studies are performed by passing small electrical currents through the skin and making recordings of the natural electrical signals further down the nerve or over a muscle. This is done with pads attached to the skin. The electrical pulses produce a strange tingling sensation, which can be uncomfortable but should not be painful. Your muscles may have brief uncontrollable twitches.

## **Electromyography**

This test records the naturally occurring electrical activity within your muscles. This is done with a fine needle inserted into the muscle. The small size of the needle means that it should not be too uncomfortable. As with all needles, this can sometimes leave a bruise, and the muscles may feel sore for a while after the test.

These tests take about 20 to 30 minutes and a full report will be sent to the doctor who referred you for the test.

## **Why do I have to come to North Manchester General Hospital?**

NCS/EMG investigation is not available at the other hospital sites within Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, therefore although you may have originally seen a doctor at another site you have been referred to **North Manchester General Hospital**.

## **What preparation is needed?**

It is helpful if your hands and feet are as warm as possible. Please avoid hand lotions or creams. Loose fitting clothing that can be rolled up to above the elbows and knees is very helpful. Bracelets, rings and watches will have to be removed for the tests on the hands, and socks or tights removed for investigation on the feet. If you are on treatment you should take your tablets at the usual time.

**Please note:** Accompanying children/babies will not be allowed in the room where the test is being carried out, therefore if you need to bring a child with you, you must ensure that someone is with you who can supervise them.

## **Contacting us**

If you have any questions about the issues raised above, or have any other concerns, please contact the department on 0161 720 2780.

**If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service**

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

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Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

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For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

**For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897**

**For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service**

The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) is one of the largest NHS organisations in the country, employing 17,000 staff and providing a range of hospital and community healthcare services to around 1 million people across Salford, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and surrounding areas. Our Care Organisations are responsible for providing our services, delivering safe, high quality and reliable care to the local communities they serve.

The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).



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