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Directions to Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) on Admission Day

GO STRAIGHT TO THE UNIT – DO NOT GO TO REGISTRATION

Enter the Medical complex from Tulane Avenue (see signs for parking), a few blocks toward Broad Street from the intersection of Tulane and Claiborne. The parking garage address is 2001 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70112.

Turn RIGHT into garage parking and take elevator to the first floor.

GO STRAIGHT TO THE UNIT – DO NOT GO TO REGISTRATION

You will walk toward the main lobby and then go right into the hospital – just follow the signs to the 'hospital'.

Enter the hospital, walk left and go to the end of the hall. Turn right at the end of the hall and follow the signs to TOWER 2.

• The tower signs are color-coded. Tower 2 is green.

Take the elevator to the 3rd floor, go right at the first hall and go to the Nurse's station across from rooms 3266 and 3267 to let them know that you have arrived for inpatient monitoring.

***Call Dr. Nicole Pittman with any questions or changes in schedule.

Mobile: 504-496-5402

Office: 504-568-4091

COVID Test Friday Oct. 23rd

at UMC Tower 3, 5th floor

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COVID Visitation Policy for the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU)

- 1. The name and phone number of the one (1) family member, that has been approved to stay with the patient while in the EMU area, will be provided the Friday before admission.
- 2. Unit Nurse Director will share the patient family information with screeners at UMC.
- 3. The family member and the patient will be informed of the Visitation Guideline stipulations:
 - a. Visitors must be 18 years or older.
 - b. A family member who leaves the hospital cannot be replaced by other family members.
 - c. Visitors can only enter through the Tulane Avenue main entrance.
 - d. Each family member will be screened upon entry and will receive an armband or sticker.
 - e. Visiting family members must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and receive a temperature check.
 - f. Family members with a temperature higher than 100 degrees or those who have flu-like symptoms will not be allowed to visit patients.
 - g. The screened family members must always wear a surgical mask within the Hospital, unless eating or drinking.
 - h. Family member movement within the hospital will be limited to the patient's room, public restrooms, gift shop, and the café area.
 - i. Family members cannot enter and re-enter the building.

Family members who fail to adhere to these guidelines will receive in a first-time warning communicated to Patient Experience and the Unit Director or their designee. Subsequent violations of these guidelines will result in the family member escorted out of the hospital by hospital security, notification of Patient Experience and notification of the Unit Director or designee.

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LSUHSC/University Medical Center Epilepsy Monitoring Unit Directions and Admission Instructions

Pre-admission:

- It is important that you check your insurance benefits prior to your hospital stay. There should be a benefit phone number located on your insurance card. You will be looking for inpatient hospitalization benefits. This is so you know in advance if you have any out of pocket expenses.
- Two to three weeks before your admission, your insurance will be contacted and an authorization will be requested.
- You will be requested to have medication blood levels taken one week prior to your admit date, as well as a chest x-ray and urine test.
- On the Friday, Saturday or Sunday before your admission, you will begin tapering your medication according to the plan provided by Dr. Olejniczak or Dr. Mader.
- Wash your hair the night before or the morning of your admission and leave your hair natural. Your hair should be clean and free of hair products, such as hairspray, styling gel, hair grease or pomade, hair extensions or braids.

Directions to the hospital and clinic:

University Medical Center is located on Tulane Avenue, near the corner of Tulane Avenue and Claiborne Avenue in New Orleans. The parking garage address is 2001 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70112.

- From the Crescent City Connection (from CBD), exit US-90 E/Claiborne Ave exit, go down the exit ramp toward Tulane Avenue. Turn left onto Tulane Avenue. The garage is a few blocks down on the right.
- From I-10 (west of the city), take I-10 East toward the New Orleans Business District, keep right at the fork past the Bonnabel exit to stay on I-10 East. Take Exit 13B-A for US-90 E/S Claiborne Ave toward the Superdome. Stay left in the exit and merge onto US-90 E (up). Go down the exit ramp toward Tulane Avenue and turn left onto Tulane Avenue. The garage is a few blocks down on the right.
- From I-10 (east of the city), take I-10 West toward Baton Rouge. Stay left coming into the city. Take Exit 235B toward Canal St/Superdome. Turn right onto Cleveland Avenue. Turn right at S. Claiborne Avenue (first street). Go two blocks and turn right onto Tulane Avenue. The garage is a few blocks down on the right.

Admission Instructions:

- You will proceed directly to the EMU and be admitted there.
- Please arrive at 7:30 am.

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LSUHSC/University Medical Center Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) Video-EEG Monitoring

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Do I need to do anything in preparation for my hospital stay?

 You may have your antiepileptic drugs decreased or stopped prior to your admission day so that seizures will be more likely to occur and can be recorded. You will also be asked to have blood work, a chest x-ray and urine test one to two weeks prior to your admission.
- 2. What should I expect when I arrive? You will go directly to the EMU where you will be admitted and shown to the monitoring room. The EEG technologist will arrive and connect you to the EEG electrodes. The electrodes will be secured to your head with a special solution and gauze will be placed over your head to protect the electrodes from coming off.
- 3. How long should I expect to be in the EMU? Video-EEG monitoring typically lasts for 3-5 days. You will be monitored 24-hours per day with video and EEG recorders.
- 4. Will I need my medicine? Please bring your own medicines from home.

 Although you may be stopping or decreasing your antiepileptic drugs before entering the unit, you will continue taking most other prescribed medications. Before discharge from the monitoring unit, your physician will re-start your antiepileptic drugs. In order to reduce the risk of increased seizures when you return home, it is important that medications be at therapeutic levels at the time of discharge. This may extend your hospital stay by one day. Your drug levels are more likely to stay consistent if you are administered your usual brands of medication.
- 5. Will meals be provided for me during my hospital stay? Three meals will be provided daily by the hospital. The family member staying with you can bring food or go to the cafeteria to eat.
- 6. **Do I have to wear a hospital gown?** You may wear your own clothes, but we ask that you wear loose fitting, button down or zip-up shirts. Pullover shirts are not acceptable because of the electrode cables. Please make sure to bring socks, shoes or slippers for your feet, as well as all necessary toiletries for you and your family member (toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo etc.).
- 7. Will I have my own room and bathroom? The room is a private room with a private bathroom. You may not wash your hair until the electrodes are removed on the day of discharge. You may only go to the bathroom with nursing help. This is to prevent falls.

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- 8. Will I be video-monitored in the bathroom? The bathroom is equipped with an emergency call button, but not with video equipment. If the door is open, it is possible that some activities may be recorded.
- 9. May I leave my room? During your stay, you will have scalp electrodes attached to the EEG instrument by a cable that is 30 feet in length. You will be in bed except to use the bathroom. You will not be able to leave you room.
- 10. I am a smoker. Since I can not leave my room, what will I do? Your doctor may prescribe a nicotine patch for use during your hospital stay. You may not chew nicotine gum because it may affect your monitoring results.
- 11. May someone stay with me in my room? It is very helpful to have a family member, friend or significant other stay with you during monitoring. Please choose someone who is familiar with your seizures and can help alert nurses that a seizure has started. A sofa with under seat storage will be provided.
- 12. What are the EMU visiting hours? Visiting hours on the epilepsy monitoring unit are 9:00 am to 8:30 pm. This does not apply to the one family member that will be staying with you. Up to two people may visit at one time. Children must be aged 10 years or older to visit. Only adults (18 or older) may spend the night.
- **May I use my cell phone?** Each room is equipped with a telephone, but you may use your cell phone at any time. There is also Wi-Fi available.
- 14. Will there be a TV in my room? There is a television in each room. You may want to bring a portable DVD player, videos, games and books.
- 15. What may I expect when I am discharged? At discharge you will be given medication instructions and may be scheduled for additional testing. You will return to the clinic for a follow-up office visit in one to two months after you are monitored. Your return visit may be delayed if testing ordered at the time of discharge has not been performed or results are not available.

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Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU)

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the LSUHSC/University Medical Center Epilepsy Monitoring Unit is to provide comprehensive, advanced medical care for patients with epilepsy. The unit is staffed by a multidisciplinary team of neurologists, neurosurgeons, psychologists, psychiatrists, specially-trained nurses and EEG technologists committed to providing state-of-the-art medical care.

OVERVIEW

The EMU is part of the comprehensive medical and surgical epilepsy program developed in partnership by the LSUHSC Epilepsy Center and the University Medical Center of New Orleans. Our multidisciplinary team of professionals is dedicated to providing specialized, quality medical care to persons that may be suffering from epilepsy.

The purpose of your admission to the EMU may include the following: 1) determine if the symptoms that you are experiencing are epileptic seizures or another type of event; 2) identify the type of epileptic seizures that you are experiencing; or 3) identify the location in the brain that may be the source of your epileptic seizures.

In order to gather enough information, you must be continuously monitored using video and EEG (where electrodes are attached to the scalp with skin glue) over a period of three to five days. Ideally, several of your 'typical' events will be recorded. The EEG recording will show the electrical evolution of the events and provide information about where the events are occurring on the brain. The video will also help determine the type of event that you are experiencing and give clues about the location of the source of the activity in the brain.

MEDICATIONS

You will receive a schedule for decreasing or stopping your antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) about one week before your hospital admission. Most medication changes will occur 1-2 days before admission. By reducing or discontinuing your medication, there is a better chance that we will be able to record several typical events. A hospital admission during this time is necessary because of this risk of increased seizure activity when medications are discontinued.

Before you are discharged from the monitoring unit, your doctor will re-start your AEDs and provide instructions for taking your medication. It is possible that your doctor will make changes to your medications at this time. It is necessary to get the medications at a protective level by the time of discharge in order to reduce the risk of increased seizure activity when you return home. This process may extend your hospital stay by one day. Please bring your own medications from home. This allows you to continue the same type and brand of medication to which your body is accustomed.

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FAMILY MEMBER/SIGNIFICANT OTHER

We ask that a family member or significant other accompany you to the EMU. It is important that someone familiar with your seizures stay with you. That person can help identify a 'typical' event and may be able to point out pre-seizure activity that may warn an event is starting. Sleeping arrangements are available but guests must bring meals or use the hospital cafeteria. *This is encouraged but not required.

EMU REGISTRATION / ADMISSION GUIDELINES

You will go directly to the unit on the day you arrive for your hospital stay. The unit nurse will contact the admission department and they will send someone to register you. For safety reasons, you must go to the unit as soon as you arrive at the hospital. Do not go to a waiting room. Do not stop for food.

I.V. INSERTION

Once you are in your room, an I.V. will be placed in your arm so that emergency medications can be given if necessary.

PREPERATION FOR MONITORING

The EEG technologist will arrive and begin connecting the EEG electrodes. The electrodes will be secured to your head with a special glue and gauze will be placed over your head to protect the electrodes from coming off. Once connected, you will be monitored 24-hours per day with video and EEG recorders.

You will be connected to a 30-foot cable, which will allow you to reach the restroom. You will be able to sponge bathe during your stay, but you will not be able to wash your hair or get your head wet. For the rest of the time, you will need to stay in bed.

WHAT TO BRING

While in the EMU, you are not required to wear a hospital gown. You may bring shorts, jeans, or any other clothes that make you comfortable. Shirts with buttons down the front are the easiest to wear while on the EMU. You may NOT wear shirts that slip over your head because of the EEG cables. Make sure to bring socks, shoes or slippers for your feet. Bring your own pajamas if you do not want to wear a hospital gown. Please bring toiletries for you and the family member that will be staying with you (toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, etc.). The room has a TV, Wi-Fi and a sofa that opens to a bed. You may wish to pack reading materials, a portable DVD player and games.

LSUHSC Epilepsy Center 1541 Tulane Ave., Rm 763 New Orleans, LA 70112

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