

UW MEDICINE'S MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS PROGRAM IS MOVING TO THE NORTHWEST HOSPITAL CAMPUS

Questions and Answers for Patients and Families

What is happening?

UW Medicine is committed to offering the premier care program to improve quality of life for people who live with multiple sclerosis (MS). To do so, and to better serve our patients' needs, we will open a new center this summer on the campus of Northwest Hospital & Medical Center (NWH). The center will combine care teams to create a one-stop clinic with comprehensive treatment resources.

Although all MS services will be provided at the new MS Center and the surrounding NWH facilities, patients may choose to continue to seek rehabilitation therapy, as well as MRI scans and lab services, at UW Medical Center (UWMC).

Why is MS care moving?

The new center will combine our MS practices, neurology and rehabilitation medicine from across the UW Medicine system, bringing together skilled practitioners at one site. In the past, these practices have been at separate locations. Merging those teams, and our interest in designing a state-of-the-art program for MS care, gave us the opportunity to consider a facility that would be ideally situated to MS patients.

Where is the new MS center?

UW Medicine's recent affiliation with NWH enabled us to identify space on its campus, located about six miles north of UWMC, just off Interstate 5 and minutes away from Northgate Mall. The new MS center will be on the ground floor of the McMurray Medical Building (see map on reverse page), a spacious facility with ample natural lighting and a convenient patient drop-off/pickup area at the front entrance. The building is directly adjacent to the hospital's patient parking garage.

UW Medicine provides a daily shuttle service between UWMC and NWH, with trips approximately every 35 minutes between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The new location also is convenient for people who use public transportation. One route, Metro bus 345, runs from the Northgate Park & Ride to a stop on the Northwest Hospital campus. Visit transit.metrokc.gov or call 800.542.7876 to check bus schedules and routes.

Who will I receive care from at the new MS Center?

Many of the same MS specialists of neurology and rehab medicine as well as UWMC staff will continue to provide care and support for the MS patients at the new location.

Will I be notified about when my care will transition to the new location?

Yes. We aim to start appointments at the new center in July, and will ensure you have information beforehand about your new appointment location, including directions and other details.

Will I have to come back to UWMC for my infusions?

No. All MS services will be provided in the new clinic, which will have an infusion unit.

Where will I receive my rehabilitation therapy sessions?

You may receive your physical, occupational and speech/language therapy wherever you choose. NWH offers a full range of outpatient therapy services, including a uniquely designed “Easy Street” environment to help with rehabilitation. Learn more at nwhospital.org/services/rehab_main.asp.

Where will I get my MRI and labs?

You may receive laboratory and MRI services at the location most convenient to you – UWMC or NWH. Many lab specimen collections can be performed within the new MS Center.

Is anything else changing?

The new center will be connected to UW Medicine’s eCare platform, a service enabling patients to securely use the internet to access information about their health.

Questions or concerns?

Adele Wirch and Cricket McCleary are your best sources of information:

- Adele Wirch, senior clinic manager, 206.598.5218, alwirch@uw.edu
- Cricket McCleary, MS Center clinic manager, 206.598.8668, cricket1@uw.edu

Map of Northwest Hospital & Medical Center:

