



NEUROMUSCULAR CARE

The Neuromuscular Center at Hospital for Special Care (HSC) is the largest and most comprehensive neuromuscular facility in the state. The Neuromuscular Center cares for more than 180 patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and over 700 adult and pediatric patients with muscular dystrophy and other chronic neuromuscular disorders. Patients are cared for in one of four multidisciplinary team clinics – staffed by neuromuscular neurologists, neuromuscular nurse specialist, respiratory therapists, physical and mobility therapists, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, electromyography technologist, wheelchair specialist, medical dietitian, and social worker.

Neuromuscular Center Patient Services

- Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Clinic for Adults
- Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Clinic for Children
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association (ALSA) Certified Center Program & Clinic
- Neuropathy & General Neuromuscular Disease Clinic
- Electromyography & Neurodiagnostic Lab
- UCHC-HSC Muscle & Nerve Biopsy Service
- Rehabilitation Services
- Speech & Language Pathology
- Medical Nutrition Services
- Social Work Services
- Support Groups
- Neuromuscular Pulmonary Clinic

Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Clinic for Adults

The MDA Clinic for adults is the largest MDA Clinic in the state and region. This clinic meets every Friday to provide compassionate care for patients with MDA-related diseases including amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), muscular dystrophy, spinal muscular atrophy, myasthenia gravis, Charcot-Marie-Tooth neuropathy, inclusion body myositis and many others. This multidisciplinary team clinic provides diagnostic testing, rehabilitation and supportive care, and medical treatment for chronic neuromuscular diseases.

Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Clinic for Children

The MDA Clinic for children is one of only two programs in the state. This clinic meets every Wednesday to provide

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

*For information or referrals to any of these services, please contact:
Mrs. Sharon McDermott at 860.612.6305, Fax: 860.612.6304
or mcdermos@hfsc.org.*

*For further information regarding research and clinical trials, please contact: Dr. Lavanya Rajachandran at 860.612.6305,
Fax: 860.612.6304 or rajachal@hfsc.org.*

*Our offices are located at:
Hospital for Special Care, 2150 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06053
There is ample, free parking. See website for directions: www.hfsc.org*

compassionate care for pediatric patients with MDA-related diseases including Duchenne muscular dystrophy, spinal muscular atrophy, myotonic dystrophy, facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy, limb-girdle muscular dystrophy, Charcot-Marie-Tooth neuropathy, and many others. This is a multidisciplinary team clinic that provides diagnostic, genetic and rehabilitation services.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association (ALSA) Certified Center Program & Clinic

The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association (ALSA) Certified Center Program & Clinic is the only ALSA certified program in the state and one of only 35 in the country. This clinic meets every Monday to provide compassionate care for patients with ALS (Lou Gehrig disease) and related disorders. This multidisciplinary team clinic provides diagnostic testing, rehabilitation and supportive care, medical treatment, and hospice care.

Neuropathy & General Neuromuscular Clinic

The Center also evaluates and cares for patients with chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP), multifocal motor neuropathy, idiopathic neuropathy, diabetic polyneuropathy, and other non-MDA disorders.

Electromyography (EMG) & Neurodiagnostic Lab

This lab is pending accreditation by the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) and is staffed by three board-certified neuromuscular neurologists with extensive training and experience in neuromuscular disease and electrodiagnostic medicine. This state-of-the-science lab performs all aspects of EMG testing including nerve conduction studies, needle electromyography, repetitive nerve stimulation, and single-fiber electromyography. With patient comfort in mind, the EMG Lab evaluates all neuromuscular conditions from routine

cases like carpal tunnel syndrome to complex cases including myopathies, motor neuron disease, CIDP, and pediatric neuromuscular disorders.

Muscle & Nerve Biopsy Service

In affiliation with neuropathologists Dr. Qian Wu and Dr. Margaret Grunnet at the University of Connecticut Health Center, neuromuscular specialists at HSC review over 160 muscle and nerve biopsies each year – referred from both HSC and other Connecticut hospitals. The biopsy service evaluates for inflammatory and genetic disorders affecting muscle and nerve, and utilizes all of the modern histopathology techniques including frozen histochemistry, muscular dystrophy immunoperoxidase, and electron microscopy.

Rehabilitation Services

HSC is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation programs in the state – including physical therapy, occupational therapy, mobility and wheelchair evaluations, and aquatic physical therapy.

Speech & Language Pathology

Neuromuscular patients in all specialized clinics benefit from a knowledgeable staff of speech and language pathologists.

Medical Nutrition Services

The MDA and ALSA clinics are staffed by a dietitian to evaluate for weight loss and for recommendations regarding optimal nutritional support in the setting of chronic neuromuscular diseases.

Social Work Services

A neuromuscular social worker is available during all clinics to

provide counseling for patients and family members, and assist with home care services and employment issues.

Support Groups

The center has monthly support groups for ALS, inclusion body myositis, and pediatric neuromuscular disorders.

Neuromuscular Pulmonary Clinic

This specialized clinic is staffed by Dr. Marcy Goldstein for assessment and treatment of breathing and sleep disorders in patients with chronic neuromuscular diseases.

Neuromuscular Research & Clinical Trials Unit

The Neuromuscular Research & Clinical Trials Unit is the only clinical research program in the state dedicated to neuromuscular disorders. Dr. Jinsy Andrews and Dr. Lavanya Rajachandran test experimental treatments for ALS and other chronic neuromuscular disorders, and participate in National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded clinical research. The ‘Medical Home’ concept is also being developed for the care of pediatric and adult patients with chronic neuromuscular diseases.



DEPARTMENT OF NEUROMUSCULAR MEDICINE STAFF

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Accreditation/Recognition/Certification

Hospital for Special Care (HSC) is certified by The Joint Commission (TJC), and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for Comprehensive Integrated Inpatient Rehabilitation Programs, Acquired Brain Injury, Outpatient Medical Rehabilitation and Spinal Cord System of Care for both Inpatient and Outpatient Rehabilitation. HSC’s Pulmonary Care Services are recognized by the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) as a Quality Respiratory Care Provider under their Quality Respiratory Care Recognition (QRCR) program for Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals (LTACH). The Neuromuscular Center is certified by the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association (ALSA). The EMG Lab at Hospital for Special Care is accredited by the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM). For more information about EMG Lab accreditation, contact the AANEM at www.aanem.net.