

---

## Department of Neurosciences

# Neuroimmunology Services

### What is Neuroimmunology?

- Neuroimmunology is a field of medicine which studies the interaction between the immune and nervous systems.
- The immune system normally protects the body against infection and disease. However, in extreme situations the body can attack itself causing damage to the brain and nerves, as well as other tissues.
- This can cause a variety of sensory symptoms, such as problems with your vision or ability to touch and feel normally. It can also cause muscle weakness, which can have a big impact on your daily life. These symptoms vary depending upon the specific causes of your illness. The effects can be relatively short (weeks), but in some cases can be permanent.
- Active drug treatments are not always required but involve dampening down your immune system to reduce the damage it is causing to your nerves.
- We will provide you with more information about your condition and any treatments that are recommended at your first consultation, and you can find useful links on our website.

### Neuroimmunology Clinic

- This clinic is run by a specialist team of consultant neurologists with extensive experience in Neuroimmunology.
- The team is supported by a specialist nurse who will provide help and advice regarding your condition, treatment and any other problems that you might encounter.
- At your appointment you will be seen by a consultant who will review your symptoms, may arrange further tests, such as brain scans or blood tests, and advise on a course of treatment if required.
- Your condition will be discussed by the team prior to and following each appointment; so even if you see a different doctor than previously, they will be fully informed of your medical history, ongoing treatment and any future plans.
- Further appointments may be required to monitor your progress.
- You may also remain under the care of other teams such as vasculitis or immunology. We maintain close contacts with other specialists to make sure everyone knows what is going on.

## Contacts

For **routine enquiries** regarding clinic appointments please contact:  
**01223 217346**

For advice regarding your **treatment** or if you feel that your **symptoms** have worsened please contact one of the clinical team:

**Monday to Friday: 0900 to 1700 Telephone: 01223 349363**

[neuroimmunology@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:neuroimmunology@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)

(Please allow 24 hours for a response during the week and until Monday for messages left over the weekend)

## Further information

The links below also provide useful advice regarding various conditions

Brain and Spine: <http://www.brainandspine.org.uk/>

Encephalitis: <http://www.encephalitis.info/>

Gain: <http://www.gaincharity.org.uk/>

Lupus UK: <http://www.lupusuk.org.uk/>

Myelitis: <http://myelitis.org/>

Neurological Alliance: <http://www.neural.org.uk/>

NHS conditions: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Pages/hub.aspx>

NMO UK: <http://www.nmouk.nhs.uk/>

Vasculitis: <http://www.vasculitis.org.uk/>



We are now a smoke-free site: smoking will not be allowed anywhere on the hospital site.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169.

## Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact

Patient Information: 01223 216032 or

[patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk)



## Document history

Authors	NeuroImmunology Nurse Specialist
Department	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 0QQ <a href="http://www.cuh.org.uk">www.cuh.org.uk</a>
Contact number	01223 245151
Publish/Review date	June 2014/June 2017
File name	Neuroimmunology services
Version number/Ref	1/PIN3551