

# Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS)

## Information for patients

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This information is written to provide information for patients attending for a Nerve Conduction Study (NCS).

### Why have I been referred for this test?

You have been referred to the department by your consultant or GP. People are referred for Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) for a variety of reasons but most commonly they are used in the investigation of people who complain of weakness or strange sensations in their hands.

**You do not have to be experiencing your symptoms at the time of the test.**

### What is an NCS and what does it involve?

NCS are a way of testing nerves and muscles in the hands to see how well they are working.

A clinical physiologist will perform the test. He/she will explain the procedure to you and take any relevant medical history. Feel free to ask questions about the test.

Small stickers are applied on the skin over the nerve or muscle to be tested. A nerve stimulator (a handheld device with two soft felt prongs or special metal rings) is pressed over another part of the nerve a small distance away.

It is often necessary to move the stickers and stimulator to test different nerves.

For access to the patient information video, please visit the link below or scan the QR code using the camera app on your phone or tablet:

[https://player.vimeo.com/progressive\\_redirect/playback/1133538554/rendition/1080p/file.mp4?loc=external&log\\_user=0&signature=2e02d2a4083ef86a4cde821aff30b1a90f775ff218e1013f774c502ab1807b13](https://player.vimeo.com/progressive_redirect/playback/1133538554/rendition/1080p/file.mp4?loc=external&log_user=0&signature=2e02d2a4083ef86a4cde821aff30b1a90f775ff218e1013f774c502ab1807b13)



### What will I feel during the test?

To test the nerve pathway in the hand, the test will involve a small electrical pulse being applied at various points along your arm. This may make your muscle twitch for a short while, but is not painful. **The test takes between 30-60 minutes.**

There are no after effects associated with this test and after the investigation you will be able to go home or back to work.

### What preparation is needed?

It is useful to make sure hands and feet are not too cold, as this can affect the test.

If you are on treatment, you should take your medication as normal and at the usual time.

Please ensure you are wearing loose-fitting clothing.

Bracelets and watches will have to be removed during the test. Rings (if possible) will also have to be removed.

## When will I receive the results?

You will not receive the results on the day of the test. A full report will be sent to the consultant/GP who referred you for the test.

## Additional Information

Occasionally some people will find the test difficult to tolerate. If you feel that you will struggle with any aspect of the test, please telephone the department. We are happy to accommodate any special arrangements.

## Keeping your Appointment

If you cannot keep your appointment, or have been given one that is unsuitable, please change it by phoning the number on your appointment letter. Your call will give someone else the chance to be seen and will help us keep waiting times to a minimum.

## Public Transport and Travel Information

Bus details available from:

Lothian Buses on **0131 555 6363** or [www.lothianbuses.co.uk](http://www.lothianbuses.co.uk)

Traveline Scotland on **08712002233** or [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

Train details available from:

National Rail Enquiries on **03457 484 950** or [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

## Patient Transport

Patient Transport will only be made available if you have a medical/clinical need.

Telephone **0300 123 1236** \*calls charged at local rate up to 28 days in advance to book, making sure you have your CHI Number available. Hard of hearing or speech impaired? Use text relay: **18001-0300 123 1236\*** (calls charged at local rate). To cancel patient transport, telephone 0800 389 1333 (Freephone 24 hr answer service).

## Interpretation and Translation

Your GP will inform us of any interpreting requirements you have before you come to hospital and we will provide an appropriate interpreter. If you are having this procedure as an existing in patient, staff will arrange interpreting support for you in advance of this procedure. This leaflet may be made available in a larger print, Braille or your community language.

## Contact Information

**Clinical Neurophysiology Department**

**Outpatient Department (OPD) 15**

Telephone: **0131 312 1505 / 0131 312 1509**