



Parkinson's Disease Testing

Important instructions and what to expect

You are scheduled for a test to assess your symptoms of Parkinson's disease, both when you are off and then on your Parkinson's medicines. This handout gives important instructions to follow the day before and the day of your test.

Your appointment is on:

_____ DATE
at: _____ TIME

The Night Before Your Test

Please do **not** take any Parkinson's disease medicines **after midnight** the night before your appointment. These medicines include:

- Amantadine (Symmetrel)
- Apomorphine (Apokyn)
- Bromocriptine (Parlodel)
- Carbidopa/Levodopa (Sinemet)
- Carbidopa/Levodopa/Entacapone (Stalevo)
- Entacapone (Comtan)
- Pramipexole (Mirapex)
- Rasagiline (Azilect)
- Ropinirole (Requip)
- Rotigotine (Neupro)
- Selegiline (Eldepryl, Zelapar)
- Trihexyphenidyl (Artane)

The Day of Your Test

- Please bring all of your Parkinson's medicines in their original bottles. Also bring a list of the doses and times of day you take them.
- Take all your other (non-Parkinson's) medicines as usual.
- Arrive at the clinic 15 minutes before your appointment time.
- If you use a cane, walker, or wheelchair when you are off your Parkinson's medicines, please bring it. You can also ask to borrow a wheelchair when you enter the hospital.

What to Expect During Your Test

- Plan to spend up to several hours in the clinic. You may want to bring a book to read during the waiting time.
- First, the clinician will ask questions about your Parkinson's symptoms. The clinician will do a neurologic exam to watch your movements while you are off your Parkinson's medicines.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC clinic staff are also available to help.

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- Then, you will take your Parkinson's medicines and wait until they take effect. This can take 30 to 60 minutes or longer.
- The neurologic exam will be repeated.
- If you have already had deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery, the neurologic exam will also be repeated with the stimulator turned off and then on.
- The clinician will record your exam results on a rating scale. You also may be asked to fill out a questionnaire.
- Your exams may be videotaped so they can be reviewed later by other clinicians. You will be asked to sign a consent form if your exam will be videotaped.



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