

Information about your Nerve Conduction Study or Electromyography (EMG) Test

An information video about these tests is available online on the following link
🌐 www.nhsggc.scot/emginfo

What is a nerve conduction study or EMG test?

We use these tests to examine the function of the nerves and muscles, and to diagnose a variety of problems. A qualified doctor or clinical physiologist will carry out the test. A doctor will carry out any needle tests.

Before the test

- Avoid applying lotions or creams to the arms or legs, as these make the test difficult.
- Wear loose clothing that you can roll up above the elbows and knees.
- Please avoid wearing tights, socks are ok.
- Remove bracelets and watches on both arms. Rings are usually not a problem.
- Continue to take prescribed medication unless we tell you not to.
- Please come in time for your appointment. Parking spaces at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital site are limited.

Important things to tell us before you come for your test

You need to contact us on ☎ **0141 201 2580** as soon as you can:

- If you have a pacemaker or defibrillator.
- If you take any type of anticoagulant (blood thinning) medication as we may need to advise you not to take this medication so the test can go ahead.

How is the test carried out?

- You may have to change into a hospital gown.
- We use small electrical pulses to the skin. The pulses can feel uncomfortable to start with. Most patients get used to them quite quickly.
- Sometimes we use fine needles to study your muscles. However not everyone will need to have this done. If you are worried about the needles let the doctor performing your test know.

How long will it take?

Most tests take between 20 and 30 minutes but sometimes can take a little longer.

Will it hurt or do me any harm?

The electrical tests may cause some slight tingling for a short time. Needles tests may cause mild muscle discomfort but this usually settles quickly. If you find any of the tests we are doing too uncomfortable please let us know and we will stop the test.

Will I get the result of the test immediately?

No. We will send a report back to the doctor who referred you.

Can I ask questions?

Staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Staff training

This department is part of a busy teaching hospital and participates in the training of medical and healthcare science staff. Trainees may observe or perform tests under the supervision of a senior member of staff. We will ask you if you wish to take part in student teaching.

Further Information

You can get further information about the Neurophysiology Department and the tests we do at:

 www.neurology-in-ggc.scot.nhs.uk/neurophysiology-glasgow and

 www.nhs.gov.uk/scot/emginfo