



National MS Society Information Sourcebook

www.nationalmssociety.org/sourcebook

Clinics and Comprehensive Care Centers

Recognizing that people with MS and their families have needs beyond the medical ones caused by the disease itself, a number of neurologists, specializing in the field of MS have established *MS comprehensive care centers* throughout the country. “Comprehensive care” means that these centers address the wide spectrum of concerns facing people with MS and their families.

These concerns include:

- Medication management of the disease and its symptoms, including weakness, pain, visual problems, bladder and/or bowel problems, tremor, sexual dysfunction, depression, and others
- Diagnosis and treatment of cognitive changes (e.g., problems with memory, attention and concentration, problem-solving, etc.)
- Rehabilitation strategies to manage symptoms, conserve energy, enhance and maintain function, and prevent unnecessary complications
- Consultation about employment issues such as disclosure, job accommodations, and disability insurance
- Education about the disease process for people with MS and their families
- Counseling for individuals and families
- Information about issues relating to long-term care

Health Professionals from Different Disciplines

Along with neurologists, physicians in other fields or disciplines may also be available as staff members at the centers or by referral. These include internists, psychiatrists, physiatrists (specialists in rehabilitation medicine), urologists, and gynecologists. Other health professionals including nurses, psychologists, speech/language pathologists, social workers, and physical and occupational therapists are also available to address the many problems related to MS. While not every center has all of these resources available, they all strive to meet the complex needs of people living with MS.

There are many clinical facilities across the country that have a formal affiliation with the National MS Society. Referrals to clinical facilities in your area are available by calling 1-800-FIGHT-MS.

See also...

Sourcebook

- MS Healthcare Professionals
- Rehabilitation

Society Web Resources

- Treatment Locations/Clinical Facilities
www.nationalmssociety.org/Clinics
- Treatments
www.nationalmssociety.org/Treatments
- Brochure: Choosing the Right Health-Care Provider
www.nationalmssociety.org/HCPProvider
- Spotlight: Rehabilitation in MS
www.nationalmssociety.org/Rehab

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is proud to be a source of information about multiple sclerosis. Our comments are based on professional advice, published experience, and expert opinion, but do not represent individual therapeutic recommendations or prescription. For specific information and advice, consult your personal physician.

To contact your chapter, call **1-800-FIGHT-MS** (1-800-344-4867) or visit the National MS Society web site: www.nationalmssociety.org.

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