

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CENTER



THE UW MEDICINE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CENTER is one of the largest, most comprehensive such programs in the United States and a model for other MS facilities. Since its founding in 1977, thousands of patients in the Pacific Northwest have received diagnostic and therapeutic services here.

A care model that meets patients' needs

- Our center puts MS specialists from neurology and rehabilitation-medicine in one locale to facilitate coordination of patient care and team consultations.
- Specialists here have significant experience in differentiating MS and other central-nervous-system demyelinating diseases from mimicking conditions. We are familiar with the benefits and risks of new and established drug therapies. Our goals are optimal control of disease activity and management of symptoms.
- Our MS-specialized nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, and vocational and rehabilitation counselors provide support for patients' daily function and employment challenges.
- Our psychologists address patients' mood, pain and cognitive difficulties.
- Our pharmacists oversee infusion therapies and complex multidrug regimens.
- We educate patients and communities through a variety of team and peer-group events.
- We work with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and other such organizations to maximize resources available to patients.

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Comfort and convenience

Located on the campus of Northwest Hospital & Medical Center, our ground-floor center is contemporary and well-lit. Patient drop-off/pickup is available at the front entrance, which is adjacent to the patient parking garage. An infusion suite is located in the clinic. Diagnostic imaging, labs and rehabilitation therapy are also available on Northwest Hospital's campus.

Rehabilitation therapy at Northwest Hospital includes Easy Street, the only facility of its kind in Washington state. This life-sized replica of a city street provides a unique concept in physical and occupational rehabilitation by incorporating real-world obstacles into therapeutic practices. It helps patients relearn daily living skills in order to regain independence and confidence. A physical therapy gym and occupational-therapy center are conveniently located on Easy Street.

Improving MS care through research and training

The center offers clinical fellowships in MS rehabilitation medicine and neurology to meet the great local and national demand for fellowship-trained MS physicians. The MS program also provides clinical and research fellowship training for psychologists specializing in MS care.

Our rehabilitation program works to produce outcome-based strategies that stabilize symptoms and promote maximum social and economic independence for individuals living with MS. Research projects have included the management of patients' depression, function, pain and disease course. Currently the center is researching outcomes measurement, improved medical and community interventions, and improved employment outcomes.

For more information

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