



## Memory Disorder Clinic

### **What is the Memory Disorder Clinic?**

The Memory Disorder Clinic provides evaluation for persons with concerns about memory. A multi-disciplinary team, including geriatricians, neurologists and neuropsychologists work together to find out if there is memory or cognitive problems more than normal aging, what might be causing any trouble and provide recommendations on what to do next. For those with mild symptoms, the evaluation often provides the first baseline information on cognitive skills. Our staff provide expert diagnostic services, as well as support and education for patients and caregivers. Recommendations are made to your primary care physician regarding treatment and care. Clinic staff also provides ongoing community education in the form of lectures, seminars, support groups and free memory screenings.

### **Who can the clinic help?**

Individuals with very mild symptoms to those with serious problems can benefit from a full evaluation to rule out treatable causes of trouble or establish a baseline. The clinic provides diagnostic evaluations and recommendations regarding the management of persons with memory complaints. Patients, families and physicians refer to the clinic for a full evaluation of memory loss, or to confirm a previous diagnosis. A final report provides explanation of test results, a medical diagnosis, treatment options, and the community resources available to assist. Patients do not need to be referred by a physician.

### **How is the patient and caregiver evaluation completed?**

The initial examination is designed to be simple or complex, as the person's problem requires. Initially, background information is collected from patient and family regarding health history, current medications, and symptoms. In the office, basic screening tests will evaluate cognitive function. Next, a physician will perform a physical exam. At that time, additional testing may be ordered as necessary for an accurate diagnosis. Memory Disorder Clinic staff assist the family in scheduling any tests ordered. Upon completion of the testing, the clinical team meets to review all information, determine a diagnosis, and recommend treatment.

### **What happens when the evaluation process is completed?**

The Memory Disorder Clinic staff schedules a meeting with the patient and/or family to explain the results and recommendations. A written report is provided for the patient's primary care physician and presented to the patient/family at this meeting. Out of town family are encouraged to participate in this meeting by phone conference. Test results are explained in detail and time is taken to answer questions and help everyone understand the diagnosis. Specific recommendations regarding organizing care, and referrals to local resources are discussed at that time.

### **What does the evaluation cost?**

The Memory Clinic accepts Medicare assignment. After you have met your deductible, you would be responsible for 20% of the allowable charge, or approximately \$40 for the initial visit. Supplemental insurance generally covers this if available. Two visits to the clinic are generally required. If laboratory test, imaging studies, neuropsychological testing or other tests are recommended, that provider will bill these services separately. If Medicare is not the primary insurance, it is recommended that you contact your insurance provider in advance to verify coverage.