Neuromuscular Care

The Charles H. Kaman Neuromuscular Center at Hospital for Special Care (HSC) is the largest and most comprehensive neuromuscular facility in the state. The Neuromuscular Center cares for more than 250 patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and over 1000 adult and pediatric patients with muscular dystrophy and other chronic neuromuscular disorders. Patients are cared for in one of four multidisciplinary team clinics – staffed by neuromuscular neurologists, neuromuscular nurse specialist, respiratory therapists, physical and mobility therapists, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, electromyography technologist, wheelchair specialist, medical dietitian, and social worker.

Neuromuscular Center Patient Services

- Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Clinic for Adults
- Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Clinic for Children
- MDA/ALS Clinic
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association (ALS) Certified Center Program & Clinic
- Neuropathy & General Neuromuscular Disease Clinic
- Parkinson’s Disease Clinic
- Electromyography & Neurodiagnostic Lab (AANEM Certified)
- UCHC-HSC Muscle & Nerve Biopsy Service
- Rehabilitation Services
- Speech & Language Pathology
- Medical Nutrition Services
- Social Work Services
- Support Groups
- Neuromuscular Pulmonary Clinic and Cardiology Clinics
- UCHC-HSC Neuromuscular Medicine Fellowship Program (ACGHE-Accredited)

Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Clinic for Adults

The MDA Clinic for adults is the largest MDA Clinic in the state and region. This clinic meets every Friday to provide compassionate care for patients with MDA-related diseases including Duchenne muscular dystrophy, spinal muscular atrophy, myotonic dystrophy, facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy, limb-girdle muscular dystrophy, Charcot-Marie-Tooth neuropathy, and many others. This multidisciplinary team clinic provides diagnostic, genetic and rehabilitation services.

Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Clinic for Children

The MDA Clinic for children is one of only two programs in the state. This clinic meets every Wednesday to provide compassionate care for pediatric patients with MDA-related diseases including Duchenne muscular dystrophy, spinal muscular atrophy, myotonic dystrophy, facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy, limb-girdle muscular dystrophy, Charcot-Marie-Tooth neuropathy, and many others. This is a multidisciplinary team clinic that provides diagnostic, genetic and rehabilitation services.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association (ALS) Certified Center Program & Clinic

The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association (ALS) Certified Center Program & Clinic is the only ALSA certified program in the state and one of only 34 in the country. This clinic meets every Monday to provide compassionate care for patients with ALS (Lou Gehrig disease) and related disorders. This multidisciplinary team clinic provides diagnostic testing, rehabilitation and supportive care, medical treatment, and hospice care.

Neuropathy & General Neuromuscular Clinic

The Center also evaluates and cares for patients with chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP), multifocal motor neuropathy, idiopathic neuropathy, diabetic polyneuropathy, and other non-MDA disorders.

Electromyography (EMG) & Neurodiagnostic Lab

This lab is accredited with exemplary status by the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine.
(AANEM) and is staffed by two board-certified neuromuscular neurologists with extensive training and experience in neuromuscular disease and electrodiagnostic medicine. This state-of-the-science lab performs all aspects of EMG testing including nerve conduction studies, needle electromyography, repetitive nerve stimulation, and single-fiber electromyography. With patient comfort in mind, the EMG Lab evaluates all neuromuscular conditions from routine cases like carpal tunnel syndrome to complex cases including myopathies, motor neuron disease, CIDP, and pediatric neuromuscular disorders.

**Muscle & Nerve Biopsy Service**
In affiliation with neuropathologist Dr. Qian Wu at the University of Connecticut Health Center, neuromuscular specialists at HSC review over 160 muscle and nerve biopsies each year – referred from HSC and other Connecticut hospitals. The biopsy service evaluates for inflammatory and genetic disorders affecting muscle and nerve, and utilizes all of the modern histopathology techniques including frozen histochemistry, muscular dystrophy immunoperoxidase, and electron microscopy.

**Rehabilitation Services**
HSC is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation programs in the state – including physical therapy, occupational therapy, mobility and wheelchair evaluations, and aquatic physical therapy.

**Speech & Language Pathology**
Neuromuscular patients in all specialized clinics benefit from a knowledgeable staff of speech and language pathologists.

**Medical Nutrition Services**
The MDA and ALSA clinics are staffed by a dietitian to evaluate for weight loss and for recommendations regarding optimal nutritional support in the setting of chronic neuromuscular diseases.

**Social Work Services**
A neuromuscular social worker is available during all clinics to provide counseling for patients and family members, and assist with home care services and employment issues.

**Support Groups**
The center has monthly support groups for ALS, inclusion body myositis and Parkinson’s disease.

**Neuromuscular Pulmonary Clinic**
This specialized clinic is staffed by Dr. Marcy Goldstein for assessment and treatment of breathing and sleep disorders for patients with chronic neuromuscular diseases.

**Neuromuscular Cardiology Clinic**
This specialized clinic is staffed by Dr. Richard Soucier for assessment, monitoring and treatment for MDA patients with cardiac disorders related to their neuromuscular condition.

**Neuromuscular Research & Clinical Trials Unit**
The Neuromuscular Research & Clinical Trials Unit is the only clinical research program in the state dedicated to neuromuscular disorders. Dr. Kevin Felice and Dr. Agnes Koczon-Jaremko test experimental treatments for ALS and other chronic neuromuscular disorders, and participate in National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded clinical research. The ‘Medical Home’ concept is also being developed for the care of pediatric and adult patients with chronic neuromuscular diseases.