

Long Term Video and EEG Monitoring

Patient Information – Clinical Neurophysiology

It is important that you read this information carefully

Your specialist has referred you to undergo a period of combined video and EEG (electroencephalogram) monitoring.

This is to obtain further information, if possible, on your symptoms, their potential cause and their best treatment.

Admission to Neurology Ward

- Please have clean, dry hair with no wax/gel/oil/spray
- Bring or wear a top that buttons down the front or easily slips over your head
- It is most likely that you will be asked to sit in the day room until your nurse is available to formally admit you to the ward and/or until your room is ready to move into. This may take some time if the ward is busy.

During your Admission

- The Neurophysiology Technicians will apply the electrodes to your scalp.
- The Technicians need to ensure that the electrodes and monitoring equipment are functioning at all times to gain accurate information for later interpretation by the Neurologist
- The Technicians are not able to help you with questions regarding medication, length of stay or results.
- Your doctor, or the doctor who is assigned to you during your hospital stay, will be able to answer these types of questions.
- You will be seen daily by a doctor during the monitoring process.

What the monitoring involves

The monitoring process involves two aspects.

1. The first is recording brain waves (EEG). For this, recording wires from the electrodes are plugged into a small box. There is a cable attached to it which carries this information to a plug on the wall, where it is carried to a computer in the department that stores the information for later analysis. The head is then bandaged to ensure that the electrodes stay in place. The electrodes are easily removed with special oil or acetone at the end of the monitoring process.
2. The second aspect is a video recording of you in the monitoring room. A video camera is mounted on the wall and records continuously. If a turn occurs, the information is kept for analysis.

How long do you have to stay?

The duration of the monitoring process is decided on an individual basis in conjunction with your specialist, but it is often influenced by when, and how often, turns occur.

The monitoring is not usually undertaken for any longer than five days at one time.

What is required of you

- Because you need to be within camera range at all times, you will be required to remain on the bed in the recording room throughout the monitoring period.
- It is a good idea to bring books or other items to keep yourself entertained and occupied during this time.
- It is not possible for you to be disconnected from the system so your nurse will help you with your toileting requirements as needed.
- If you are a smoker please note that you will not be able to disconnect to go outside for a cigarette. Nicotine patches will be made available if desired.
- Depending on the nature of your turns, there may be a 'sitter' assigned to you to press an 'event button' to mark the recording during your turn. They may sit beside your bed or possibly in the corridor outside your room.

What happens to the information obtained?

Although video and EEG information is continuously recorded most of this ends up being discarded. The only information kept and analysed is that which occurs shortly before, during and after any turn that occurs.

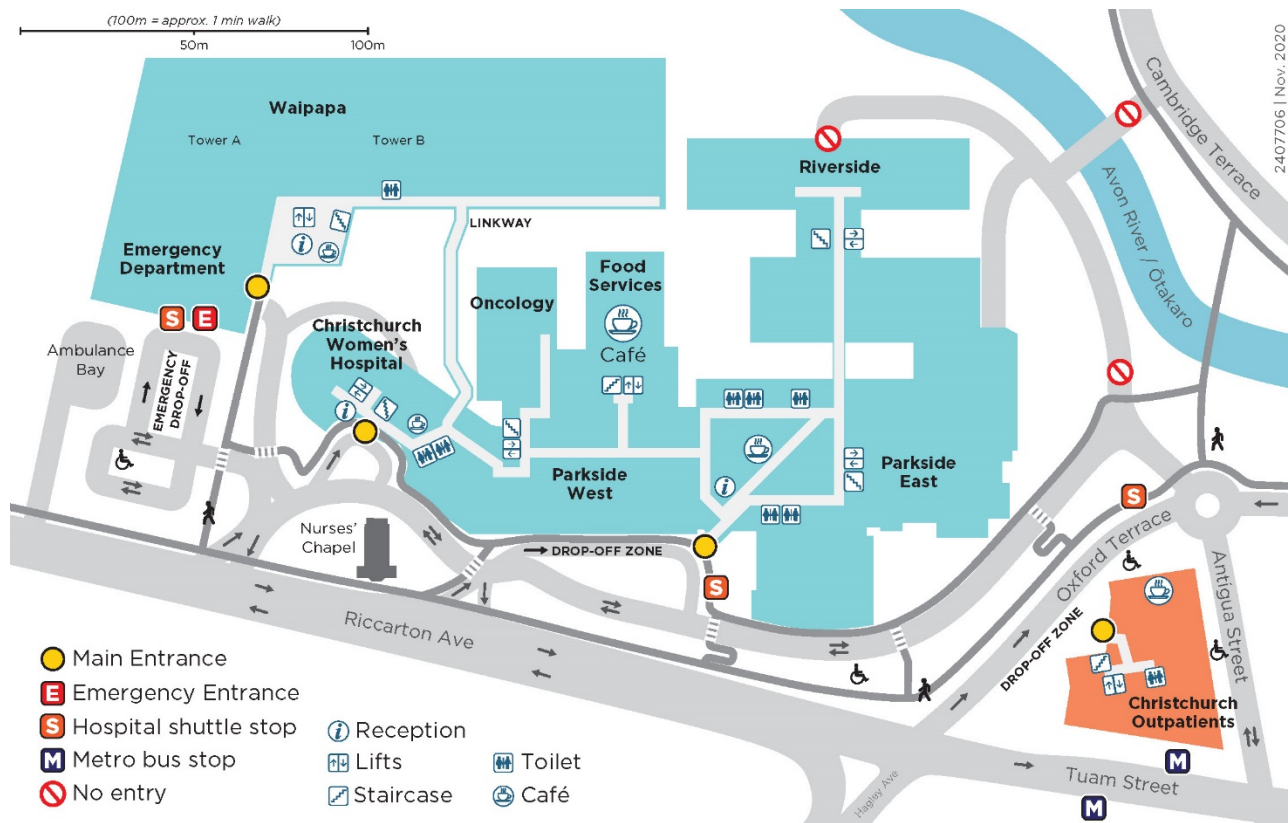
When a turn does occur someone - the patient, a visitor, a relative, a nurse etc - presses the 'event button' and this signals to the computer what part of the EEG and video recording to keep - these are stored on a computer file. All other video and EEG recording is discarded.

All stored information is placed on your confidential medical record.

* Christchurch Hospital is a teaching hospital and CDHB is involved in the education of medical and other health professionals. A technician will ask you if you are comfortable for medical or other health professional students or trainees to be involved with your care, and for your stored information to be used for education and training purposes.

Location – please note access is only via the main entrance, Christchurch Hospital

Clinical Neurophysiology
Level 3
Riverside
Christchurch Hospital



Further information

If you have any questions to ask about the monitoring process before your test, please telephone (03) 364 0949.

For more information about:

- **parking** information, go to www.cdhb.health.nz/patients-visitors/transport-parking/
- hospital and specialist services, go to www.cdhb.health.nz
- your health and medication, go to www.healthinfo.org.nz

Notes
