

Neuromuscular Centre Proposal

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The purpose of a neuromuscular centre

- Patient care: to create a multidisciplinary model to cover the entire spectrum of care. From diagnosis, initial care, rehabilitation to monitoring of disease progress and treatment response.
- Improve continuum of care on age transition, disease progression.
- Training of clinical personnel to improve on level of expertise
- Training of caregivers
- Widen regional coverage
- Incorporate clinical research to stay at cutting edge of clinical care standard
- To improve cost effectiveness by creating an efficient referral path to specific disciplines and therapists. This will reduce duplication and inappropriate use of scarce resources.

The benefits of a neuromuscular centre

- ‘One-stop-shopping’ for patients and family
- Enhances collaboration between healthcare providers, patient support groups and care givers
- Better cost efficiency by avoiding duplication of resources and referrals. Reduce hospital costs by decreasing admissions and shortening length of stay.
- Creates a visible entity that can more easily leverage funds. Multidisciplinary set up and comprehensive approach to neuromuscular disease is unique in Canada and in North America
- Infusion of new personnel, expertise into the field
- Helps to even out geographic disparity
- Creates opportunities to liaison with other centre of excellence

The programs and services of a neuromuscular centre

- Outpatient based
- Interdisciplinary setup
- Consultation/liaison arranged through clinic coordinator
- Most services will be concentrated at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital with some neurology and auxillary services clinics at the University of Alberta Hospital
- Advice to occasional patients admitted to hospital and their managing physicians will be provided through a consultation basis
- Medicine: adult and pediatric neurology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, medical geneticist, pulmonary medicine, orthopedics.
- PT
- OT
- SLP - Communication/swallowing assessment
- Respiratory therapy - Home ventilation program
- Social work
- Psychology
- Orthotists/ Wheelchair
- Assistive device technology program
- Patient support groups
- Recreational Therapy
- Vocational rehab – support patients in their work

Populations served

Broad definition of population: Patients with disorders affecting cortex of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, neuromuscular junction and muscle with primary consequence of adversely affecting motor and sensory functions.

Specific conditions:

- amyotrophic lateral sclerosis,
- myelopathy
- radiculopathy
- plexopathy
- peripheral nerve disorders
- NMJ disorders
- muscle disorders

Partnering patient support groups

- ALS Association
- Muscular Dystrophy Association
- Polio Network Canada
- Easter Seal/March of Dimes
- Canada Paraplegic Association