Huntington’s Disease Clinic

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The information is not intended to be and does not constitute healthcare or medical advice.
If you have any questions, please ask your healthcare provider.

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The information in this pamphlet is updated every 3 years.
Huntington’s Disease Clinic
Information for patients and families

Neurology clinic, 4th floor, Halifax Infirmary site,
QEII Health Sciences Centre
Clinic Nurse: 473-2425
Huntington’s Society: 446-4803
Booking clerk: 473-8346

Basic Facts

What is HD?
Huntington’s disease (HD) is a disease of the brain that runs in families. It causes neurological signs that may include:

- Abnormal movements
- Personality changes and
- Impairment in reasoning, thinking and memory.

HD most often starts in mid-life, but it can begin at any age.

A blood test can tell us if a person carries the gene for HD. A person showing signs of HD can be tested to confirm that they have it.

People who have a parent, brother, sister or other relative with HD may also be a candidate for a gene test to learn if they have a chance of getting HD in the future. This is called predictive testing.
Where is the clinic?
The HD Clinic is located on the 4th floor of the Halifax Infirmary Site of the QEII Health Sciences Centre. It is part of the Neurology Clinic.

How do I book a clinic visit?
Your family doctor or specialist can send a referral to fax #473-4438. You can download a form at www.movementdisorder.info

The Huntington’s Disease Clinic
The HD Clinic is made up of a team of professionals. A patient and their family or caregivers can meet with different members of the team, as needed, in one visit. The clinic is held on one Friday of each month. A letter will be sent to the family doctor with every visit, so they are aware of any changes in care.

Who goes to the HD clinic?
The clinic helps patients with HD, their families and caregivers, and those who have a chance of developing HD.

Who are the members of the HD Professional Team?
A visit at the HD clinic may involve spending time with any or all of these health care professionals:

Neurologist: The neurologists on the team are trained to treat the medical symptoms of HD such as abnormal movements, called chorea.

Psychiatrist: Our team Psychiatrist has special training about how HD can change families and patients, and the emotional side of the illness.

Social Worker: Our social worker is linked with the National Huntington Society of Canada. He/She supports families and patients who have, or know someone who has HD. He/She provides counseling, education, and can suggest services that can help you in your own community.

Neuropsychologist: He/She will look for the changes in memory and thinking that come about with HD. This helps patients and families make choices about their home and work life.

Clinic Nurse: He/She is a Registered Nurse. He/She can be contacted when you have questions about HD or the clinic.

Write down the names of your team here:
Neurologist ________________________________
Psychiatrist ________________________________
Social Worker ________________________________
Neuropsychologist ____________________________
Clinic Nurse ________________________________
Other ________________________________________
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