



Rapid Diagnostic Clinic

What is the Rapid Diagnostic Clinic (RDC)?

The Rapid Diagnostic Clinic, part of the Center for Brain/Mind Medicine (CBMM) at Brigham and Women's Hospital, is designed to improve access to earlier diagnosis for patients interested in research participation at the Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment (CART), and to support physician partners whose patients are in need of diagnostic assistance. The goal of this clinic is to enhance our current diagnostic capability and work closely with professionals, particularly physician partners. We support patients with a timely diagnosis, help physicians develop a comprehensive plan for follow-up, and facilitate enrollment in research studies. This clinic is staffed by a behavioral neurology physician assistant and several behavioral neurologists. Professional referrals can be sent to BWHBbehavioralNeurology@bwh.harvard.edu.

Who can be seen in this clinic?

- Patients in need of a diagnosis who wish to participate in research
- Patients seen by clinicians who need additional evaluation before their clinician can continue managing them

What is required to be seen in this clinic?

Patients must be referred from a clinician partner, CBMM, or go through the research pre-screening process at CART.

Which patients are not appropriate to be seen in this clinic?

- Patients who already have a diagnosis of and are being treated for cognitive problems
- Patients who are in need of follow-up care beyond the initial diagnosis
- Patients who have other medical issues in which a cognitive evaluation and assessment is not required

Where can I get my questions answered about complicated patients in follow-up care?

Email us at BWHBbehavioralNeurology@bwh.harvard.edu. We will follow-up with you within a week of your inquiry. This e-consultation is free.

What is the cost of the Rapid Diagnostic Clinic?

The cost of this clinic is that of a standard neurology new patient visit covered by health insurance. Should your patient have concerns about coverage, let us know so we can help navigate this issue. If your patient enrolls in a research study there are no financial costs associated with their participation in the research study.

How else can a patient be evaluated?

Patients with cognitive concerns can be seen at CBMM in the behavioral neurology clinic.

Who works at the Rapid Diagnostic Clinic?

Our behavioral neurologists:

Seth A. Gale, MD; Gad A. Marshall, MD; Scott M. McGinnis, MD; Hyun-Sik Yang, MD

Our behavioral neurology physician assistant:

Alison C. Pietras, PA-C

Email us at BWHBbehavioralNeurology@bwh.harvard.edu



More Information for Providers:

What happens if I make a referral?

- After you make the referral to BWHBehavioralNeurology@bwh.harvard.edu, a recruitment specialist will reach out to you to obtain contact information for your patient and their medical record information.
- The recruitment specialist will contact the patient and get a signed medical release of records.
- Once medical records are received they are reviewed by the covering cognitive neurologist.
- The cognitive neurologists determine when the patient will be scheduled based on medical record review.
- The patient will be contacted to schedule an appointment by a scheduling team member and sent information on next steps in the appointment process.
- There are limited spots available. We recommend that patients take available slots as to not experience a much longer delay in availability in the RDC clinic.
- Should your patient cancel we will provide you with this information. We ask that you educate your patient on the limited availability of appointment slots.

What happens when my patient is scheduled to visit the Rapid Diagnostic Clinic?

- They will be asked to register prior to their visit. The RDC is covered by the patient's insurance.
- They will be asked to fill out some brief paper work.
- They will be provided directions on where to report for their clinic appointment.

What happens on the day of the visit?

- Your patient will be scheduled with a physician assistant and a cognitive neurologist. The patient will have a two-hour appointment slot and will receive cognitive testing plus a medical and neurological evaluation. At the end of this visit the patient and family member will meet with the covering cognitive neurologist and physician assistant to review their findings.

What is the follow-up plan?

- A report will be sent to you within two weeks after the patient visit.
- Should additional scans or a further work-up be required, the physician assistant and cognitive neurologist will support you with this follow-up. Information will be sent to you to review and follow-up on with the patient. Once received, we ask that you schedule a follow up time to talk directly with the physician assistant and cognitive neurologist who assessed your patient.
- We will let the patient know they should follow up with you after the visit. The RDC is a medical consult to support the referring clinician.
- We will not be following up with patients outside of the RDC clinic appointment.
- Should you or the patient want to be seen by the physician assistant and/or cognitive neurologist in follow up you, the patient will need to schedule an appointment in the Center for Brain Mind Medicine. Should the patient be interested in a research study they will be sent on to the research team for additional information and you will be notified of this plan.