

TMS with VERIFY patients

Here are some tips for setting up patients for TMS testing. **Remember** to check in with a member of the patient's clinical team before getting started, there are notes about this on Form 510 in the Studybook.

- The patient must remain blinded to whether they are MEP+ or MEP-. This includes ensuring the TMS Operator and Assistant can communicate without directly discussing MEP status in front of the patient, and that the patient is unable to see the EMG traces during TMS testing.

If the patient is in bed during testing

- Set the bed up so the patient is sitting as upright as tolerable.
- Raise the bed under their knees so they don't slide down the bed during testing.
- Lower the bed height so you can more easily position the coil on their head. You might also need a small step to stand on so you're not having to reach upwards with the coil.
- You may need to move the patient towards the side of the bed where you will be standing, again to help you more easily position the coil on their head.
- Place pillows behind their back to create space between the top of their shoulders and the bed – this will give you more room for the coil handle and cable.
- You can place the EMG box, which the EMG cables plug into, on the bed next to the patient's paretic upper limb.
- If the EMG trace is contaminated by electrical noise you can try unplugging the bed and ensuring the patient isn't touching any metallic parts of the bed, to reduce electrical noise from the bed itself.

If the patient has IV lines and/or supplemental oxygen

- You can test a patient while they are receiving supplemental oxygen
- Take care around IV lines, ensure they do not become tangled with any cables
- If they have an IV line in the back of their paretic hand, take particular care with setting up the EMG electrodes in this area. You may need to slightly modify the electrode positions to work around the line.
- Jewellery, watches, and ID bracelets can stay on the paretic upper limb, they won't interfere with the EMG signals.

If the patient has a hearing aid, sensitive hearing and/or fragile skin

- Ask the patient to remove their hearing aid if it is on the same side of their head where you will place the TMS coil. Patients can keep their glasses on during testing.
- Some patients can find the 'click' noise made by the TMS machine a bit stressful, particularly if they have sensitive hearing. Offer them ear plugs, they may need help to insert them.
- Some patients have fragile skin, so take care during skin preparation for EMG, and when removing the EMG electrodes. You can use [Re-Move Adhesive Remover wipes](#) (Smith & Nephew) to gently dissolve the adhesive and remove the electrodes without pulling on the skin.

If you require urgent assistance or advice during a TMS session please call or text the TMS hotline at: (833)337-2227 (Available Mon-Fri 8am-9pm ET)