

BOTOX INJECTION INFORMATION

Botulinum Toxin Type A Injection for Treatment of Chronic Migraine

Chronic migraines are one of the most disabling forms of headache. Headaches are considered chronic when they occur 15 or more days per month and last 4 hours or more. BOTOX (onabotulinum toxin A), is the only FDA-approved, preventative treatment for adults with chronic migraine. It is not known whether BOTOX is safe or effective to prevent headaches in patients who have 14 or fewer headache days each month (episodic migraine) or patients under the age of 18.

Most people are familiar with BOTOX use to smooth out wrinkles but BOTOX was originally approved to treat other conditions including dystonia, spasticity, neuropathic pain and other painful syndromes. In the mid-1990s a number of people receiving botulinum toxin for other reasons reported improvement in their headaches. It is not known exactly how BOTOX works in chronic migraine but botulinum toxin is believed to inhibit the release of peripheral nociceptive neurotransmitters, which may then have a knock-on effect on the central pain processing systems that generate migraine headaches. Studies involving many patients have demonstrated the safety and effectiveness of this form of treatment.

An alternative to botulinum toxin type A therapy would be medications taken by mouth including abortives when a headache starts (to relieve a headache) and preventatives (to reduce headache frequency and severity).

The FDA has approved a specific dose and injection pattern for chronic migraine treatment. The procedure will consist of the following: The skin will be cleaned with an alcohol pad. 2 syringes with very fine needles, each containing 100 units of botulinum toxin type A, are used to administer 31 injections of very small amounts over 7 key areas of the head and neck once every 12 weeks. Injections feel like tiny pricks, you may feel mild discomfort.

Committing to 2 treatment sessions is important to see how BOTOX is working for you, since BOTOX showed significant reduction in headache days at 24 weeks. Based on your progress, you and your doctor will re-discuss treatment every 12 weeks. The best way for you and your doctor to know if BOTOX is meeting your treatment needs is to give it time to work, so track your headaches and talk to your doctor about your progress.

Special Warning of Risk to Females of Childbearing Potential

The effects of botulinum toxin type A on human babies are unknown, but could cause harm. For this reason it is necessary to:

1. Use adequate birth control to avoid getting pregnant while receiving treatment.
2. Inform our office immediately if you get pregnant.

This treatment may cause an allergic reaction. Potentially this reaction could be severe and life threatening.

It is important to tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins and herbal products. Using BOTOX with certain other medicines may cause serious side effects. Do not start any new medicines until you tell your doctor you have used BOTOX in the past. Especially tell your doctor if you have received any other botulinum toxin, such as Myobloc, Dysport or Xeomin in the past, have recently received an antibiotic by injection, take muscle relaxants, take an allergy or cold medicine, a sleep medicine, anti-platelets (aspirin-like products) or anticoagulants (blood thinners).

As it is true of all medical treatment, there is always the possibility of a new or unexpected risk.

CNMRI Payment Policy for Botox for Migraine

Effective 2/1/16 CNMRI will institute the policy below for all office injections with medications supplied by the office, which includes: Botox for migraine. Treatments are given every 90 days, or as recommended by your physician.

CNMRI advises all patients to please check with their insurance prior to all services to determine your schedule of benefits and if a copayment, coinsurance or deductible applies. Your plan is a contract between you (or your employer) and your insurance company.

Insurance plans can check your coverage for the medication costs with the following information: Billing Code-**J0585**. Botox is injected per unit and the **standard units for Botox for migraine is 200**--please remember to specify that to your insurance carrier. Your insurance will quote you an out of pocket or deductible cost, so it is important that you specify the units. Please remember this is not an exact amount, also it is only for the medications being administered and other injection costs may apply.

Pre-Payment: If your insurance requires you to pay for a deductible, copayment, or coinsurance for your administered medication you will be asked to pre-pay this portion or an estimated portion of the medication at the time of injection, prior to seeing the physician. We are not allowed to waive or reduce deductible, copayments or coinsurance amounts. For patients that do not have insurance, but require injection services, please contact our billing department to inquire about fees.

For patients with Medicare Part B health insurance with no secondary insurance coverage, you will be required to pre-pay the co-insurance amount and any deductible amounts before the medication is injected. CNMRI will collect the following prepayment amount: 200 units of Botox \$300.00. These figures are based on the July 2015 Medicare medication pricing file and the number of units your physician recommends.

Specialty Pharmacy: For patients whose insurance require your medication to be shipped through a specialty pharmacy (currently Highmark DE commercial plans and United Healthcare commercial plans) your medications will not be billed through CNMRI. Instead the specialty pharmacy will bill your insurance direct, however you will need to approve shipment to our facility by your specialty pharmacy. Your specialty pharmacy will not ship your medication without your verbal approval. Please make sure you have approved the shipment and that your medication has arrived prior to your appointment.

Prior Authorization: Our office will contact your insurance to obtain prior authorization, if necessary. Prior authorization is not a promise of payment, but an acknowledgement that your diagnosis is of medical concern. If a claim is rejected stating services are not covered due to medical necessity, even if the diagnosis is medically valid, we will exhaust all appeal options prior to billing you. Upon receipt of your bill, please remit full payment or contact our office with any questions or concerns. You may also appeal the decision directly with your insurance carrier.

Outstanding Balances: Future injections for Botox will not be performed if there is an outstanding balance for any prior injection procedure. If you receive a bill for an injection that was not prepaid in full, the balance must be paid off prior to the next injection. If you are unable to make the full payment prior to your next injection appointment, we will be glad to reschedule your appointment.

For your convenience, we accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, Check and Cash.

Online Resources for Botox for Migraines:

Botox can assist patients with savings and support by visiting their website <https://www.botoxchronicmigraine.com/botox-card-costs/> (restrictions may apply)