

## BOTOX INJECTION INFORMATION

### Botulinum Toxin Type A Injection for Treatment of Dystonia, Spasticity or Painful Syndromes

Dystonia is a neurologic disorder manifested by involuntary, sustained contractions (spasms) of muscles producing abnormal postures. Injections of botulinum toxin type A (BOTOX), a protein that causes temporary weakness of the injected muscles, may provide effective relief for dystonia, hemifacial spasm (involuntary twitching of one side of the face), spasticity and other painful conditions due to involuntary muscle contractions. Studies involving many patients have demonstrated the safety and effectiveness of this form of treatment.

Botulinum toxin type A, though approved by the FDA for treatment of blepharospasm and hemifacial spasm, has not been approved in treating dystonias, spasticity, or muscle pain. However, the American Academy of Neurology has deemed this drug safe and effective in the treatment of oromandibular, cervical, spasmodic, and focal dystonia. In addition, the National Institute of Health has also issued a consensus statement that this drug is effective and safe in treating these disorders.

In addition to dystonia, recent clinical reports in the medical literature indicate that botulinum toxin type A treatments are safe and effective in the treatment of muscle spasticity (involuntary spasm often seen after spinal cord injury, head injury, and other neurologic disorders). Patients that have had head injuries often have symptoms with elements of spasticity and dystonia.

An alternative to botulinum toxin type A therapy would be medications taken by mouth such as diazepam, benztropine, clonazepam, baclofen, and others. Additionally, certain physical therapies are known to be beneficial in the disorder as well.

The procedure will consist of the following: You will receive the botulinum toxin type A by injection into the muscle through the skin. The skin will be cleaned with an alcohol pad, and the site to be injected may be determined by using a small electric stimulator that is connected to a battery or a larger machine that is called an EMG machine. This allows the physician to correctly localize the proper area of the muscle to inject. A small electric current may be applied onto the surface of the skin with a small, sterilized needle. You will usually receive three needle sticks to each muscle for even distribution of the drug, and approximately 0.3 ccs of fluid (less than a teaspoon) will be injected with each needle insertion.

#### **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 me immediately if you get pregnant.

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

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

## **CNMRI Payment Policy for Botox, Xeomin and Dysport for Dystonia and Spasticity**

Effective 2/1/16 CNMRI will institute the policy below for all office injections with medications supplied by the office which includes: Botox, Xeomin and Dysport for dystonia and spastic related treatment. 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 spasticity is 400**, 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. For Xeomin and Dysport codes please contact the office directly

**Pre-Payment:** If your insurance requires you to pay 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: 400 units of Botox \$500.00 or 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. For Xeomin and Dysport codes please contact the office for the prepayment amounts.

**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, 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, Xeomin and Dysport 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, checks and cash.

Online Resources for Dystonia and Spasticity patients: Botox can assist patients with savings and support by visiting their website <http://www.botoxuls.com/savings-support/> (restrictions may apply)

Xeomin can assist patients with savings and support by visiting their website <http://www.xeomin.com/consumers/patient-resources/patient-co-pay-program/> (restrictions may apply)

Dysport can assist patients with savings and support by visiting their website <http://dysport.com/co-pay-assistance> (restrictions may apply)