

# Harrington

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

*Compassionate Quality Care*

## **Electromyography- NCV- EMG**

### **What is an NCV/EMG?**

- This is a diagnostic study which assesses for signs of nerve and muscle conditions.
- Although commonly referred to as EMG, this is a two-part study consisting of nerve conduction Study (NCS) and electromyography (EMG).

### **Preparation:**

- Allow 90 minutes for testing.
- Patients will change into a gown or shorts depending on the areas to be tested.
- Inform technician of allergies, pertinent medical & surgical history, current medical conditions, symptoms, and implanted devices prior to the procedure.
- Make sure the skin is clean before the procedure.
- Refrain from using gels, patches, creams, lotions to the areas being tested.

### **Study Procedure:**

- The technician will warm the location of the body to the designated temperature. This is done to reduce the instance of false results caused by cool extremities.
- The NCV portion of the study will be performed first by applying surface electrodes over the areas to be tested.
- An electrical pulse is applied with a stimulator to the nerve at points along the nerve pathways.
- The pulse starts with a moderate intensity and is gradually increased until the best response is obtained from the nerve being tested.
- The patient may feel some twitching of the muscle that is innervated by the nerve being tested.
- Patients may feel intermittent discomfort during the study. It is important to discuss any concerns with the ordering provider prior to the test and inform the technician during the test of any comfort needs. The patient will be offered breaks during the study if needed.
- The electromyographer (provider performing the study) will perform the EMG portion of the test. A fine needle will be placed into the various muscles being tested and the patient will be asked to activate the muscles by pulling, pushing etc. The volume on the machine will be increased so the electromyographer can listen to the electrical activity given off naturally by the muscles. This will sound like TV static.

### **Results:**

- Your ordering provider will be sent results within 48 hours of the exam.

**If you need to change your appointment or if you have any questions, please call the Harrington Hospital Central Scheduling Line at (508) 765- 3020.**