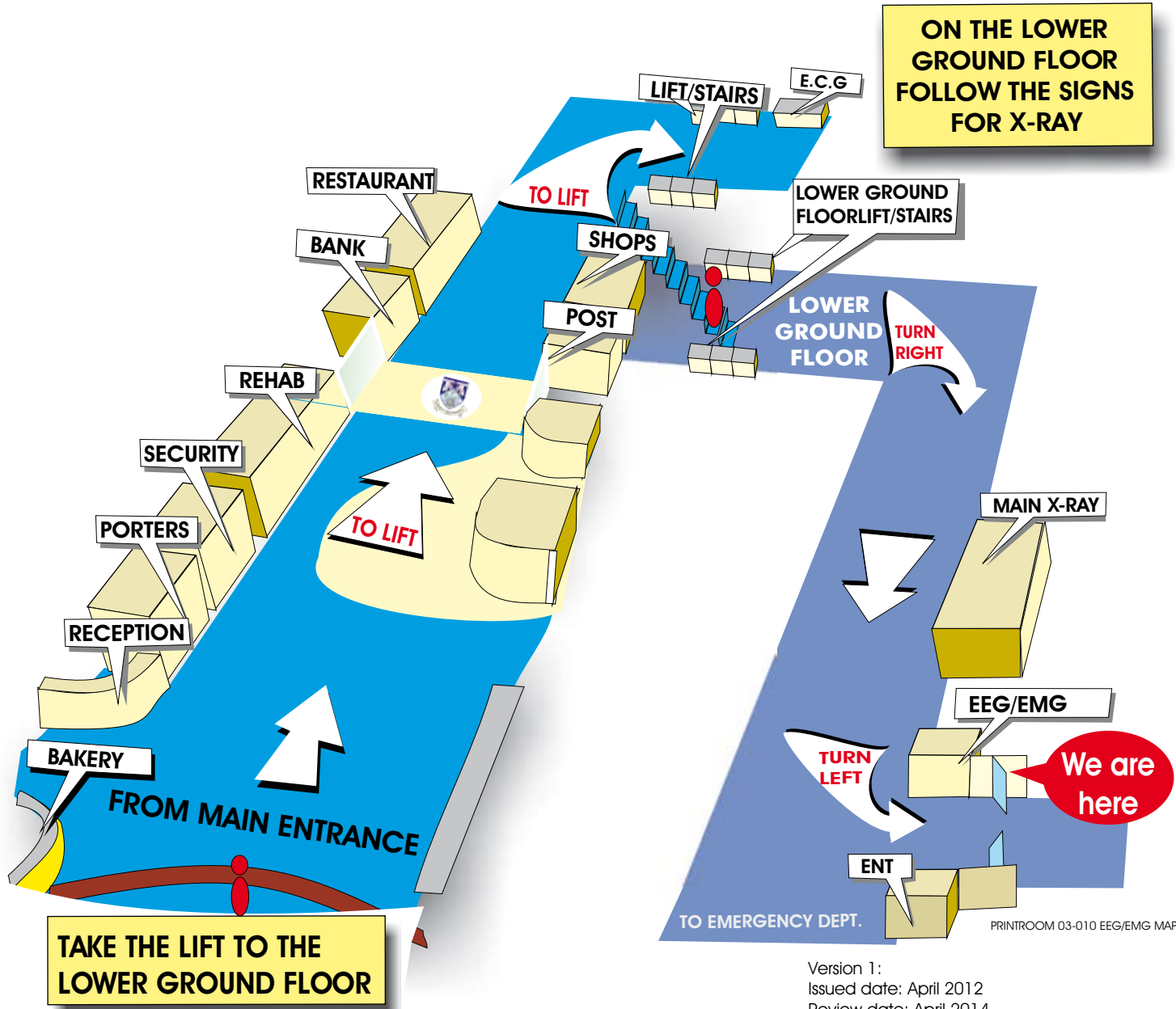


MAP FOR PATIENTS ATTENDING EEG/EMG



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Neuroscience, ENT & Cochlear Implant Directorate

Neurophysiology Department Beaumont Hospital



BOTULINUM TOXIN CLINIC FOR NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

Patient Information Leaflet
 Phone: (01) 809 2735 / 2736
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Beaumont Hospital is the principal teaching hospital
 for the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

SUP258

What is Botulinum Toxin?

Botulinum toxin (BTX) is a toxin produced by Clostridium botulinum bacteria. The toxin acts at the junction between the nerves and the muscles, preventing the release of one of the chemical messengers called acetylcholine from the nerve endings which normally cause the muscles to contract. Injecting a muscle which is prone to spasm or abnormal posturing may reduce the muscle contraction and relieve the spasm and/or posturing.

What is BTX used for?

BTX is used to treat a variety of conditions including cervical dystonia, writer's cramp, sialorrhea (excessive drooling), chronic pain, spasticity, spasmodic dysphonia (voice disorder), hyperhidrosis (excessive sweating) and migraine headaches.

Preparation before you receive BTX

- You should not receive BTX if you have an infection and are on antibiotics, swelling or muscle weakness in the area where the toxin will be injected.
- BTX is not usually injected in patients who are taking some blood thinning agents such as warfarin or plavix. Please contact the department in advance to inform us if you are taking these medications.
- Bring a list of all your medications with you
- It is not recommended to proceed with these injections if you are pregnant or breast feeding. Please call the department prior to the appointment if you wish to discuss further.

- Inform the doctor if you have received BTX injections at another hospital in the previous four months
- There is no need to restrict your diet or physical activity either before or after the BTX injection

How is BTX given?

BTX is administered by injection into a muscle using a fine needle and may be given into more than one area at a time. The doctor may use electromyography equipment (measuring electrical activity in the muscle) to target the exact muscles to inject. BTX procedures do not require anaesthesia.

It may take 2-3 days after the injection for BTX to begin to take effect and up to 10-14 days to see the full effect (these times will vary from person to person and treatment to treatment).

The effects of BTX are temporary and your symptoms may return gradually over three to five months depending on the individual, at which time the injection will need to be repeated.

What are the side- effects of BTX?

Side- effects which may appear within the first few days following the injection, are usually temporary, and will resolve/reverse within weeks.

As with any injection you may experience bruising or pain at injection site. Other possible side effects include:

- Headache
- Flu like symptom

- Drooping of the eyelid (following injection around the eye area)
- Muscle weakness near injection site
- Swallowing difficulties (following injection to the neck region)

(A detailed list of side effects can be obtained from the patient information leaflet in the product pack. Please ask your doctor for this leaflet)

After care

Your Doctor may advise a physiotherapy programme to help you get the best benefit from the BTX treatment

You will be asked to call the department within 2 weeks following injection with a progress report

On return to the clinic you will be asked to complete an evaluation form regarding the benefit you received from treatment

Patient Organisations

You may find useful information and support from

The Dystonia Society Tel: (01) 4922514

Web Page: www.dystonia.ie E-mail: info@dystonia.ie

www.wemove.org/

E-mail: wemove@wemove.org

The Stroke Association (for information on post stroke spasticity)

<http://www.scope.org.uk>