



Scope of Services

The Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center Long-Term Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) is a three-bed unit on 10 Rose, the neuroscience unit. The intensity of services provided is related to the needs of the individual patient at any given time. The unit operates under the direction of neurologists and is staffed by:

- RNs with advanced knowledge in neuroscience and epilepsy
- LPNs who have additional training
- EEG technicians and aides with long-term monitoring skills

Emotional support and education about the disease process is a vital part of the care. A visit to the EMU will enable physicians to appropriately select a care plan specific for every patient.

Conemaugh Memorial's EMU provides:

- Continuous video and EEG monitoring for patients
- A daily assessment and evaluation to maximize your stay
- A safe environment where an accurate diagnosis of seizures can be made
- The appropriate diagnostic evaluation for epilepsy surgery where indicated
- Patients and families will be educated and supported on epilepsy and related conditions
- Determination of the origin and frequency of seizures

This EMU anchors an Epilepsy Program that includes:

- Follow-up care with the services Conemaugh Physician Group - Pain and Neurology at Conemaugh East Hills
- First step for surgical evaluation when indicated
- Research
- Rehabilitation
- Support Group

The Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU)

at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center is the only center between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg that allows neuroscience specialists to view and assess seizures as they happen. By combining EEG technology with round-the-clock observation, our team closely monitors every patient to help determine if you are having seizures and from where in the brain.

On average, it takes three to five days for the Epilepsy team to obtain and evaluate appropriate seizure activity. Family members are encouraged to remain with their loved ones to provide comfort and support during their stay. Family perspectives also help doctors determine if activities that occur during the EMU stay accurately reflect what happens at home. Based on these observations and findings, the team will work with the patient's family doctor to develop a comprehensive plan of care.

L/R: Nicholas Lanciano, DO, Pamela Lorditch, CRNP, Kristyn Croyle, MSN, RN, Jodi Stiffler, EEGT, Wendy Kalmanir, RN-BC, Sherry Whitcomb, RN-BC, Peggy Harrison, LPN, Lois Tessari, RN and Ashley Shaffer, EEGT.



Epilepsy Monitoring Unit

Some patients may be admitted to the hospital for in-depth observation of seizure activity. Conemaugh's Epilepsy Monitoring Unit utilizes advanced technology and skilled staff to assist in diagnosis and treatment of each patient.

- Admission to the EMU occurs on Monday. Length of stay is typically five days, but may be modified by the neurologist.
- Patients will have continuous EEG, audio, and video monitoring throughout admission. EEG monitors electrical impulses from the nerve cells in the brain to record brain activities. Video and audio monitoring record behavior exhibited during a seizure, in a safe environment. Together, this can determine where seizures come from.
- EEG leads with wires are adhered to the patient's scalp throughout the length of stay. The patient's movement is limited to walking around the room, as the leads are connected to a recording machine.
- The EEG leads prevent the patient from showering or washing his/her hair during monitoring.
- A caregiver who is familiar with the patient's seizures is encouraged to stay with the patient. This helps the team identify occurrences that may be typical at home.
- The monitoring equipment identifies brain waves that indicates a seizure. Patients also have a "push button" to note if they are sensing an impending event.
- Specially trained monitoring technicians observe the patient 24 hours a day. The control room is located next to the patient's room, allowing for rapid response when seizure occurs.
- Patients should wear loose fitting clothing for comfort. Button-down shirts are recommended as clothing cannot be put over the patient's head due to the EEG leads. Hospital gowns are available for use.
- Patients may bring items from home such as books, movies, and puzzles. Electronics must be battery operated.

Support & Resources

Conemaugh Physician Group – Neurology

Conemaugh East Hills
1450 Scalp Ave., Johnstown, PA • 814.269.5061

Epilepsy Foundation of Western/Central Pennsylvania

Free Support Group • 4th Wednesday of the month • 3 p.m.
Conemaugh East Hills • Suite 2400
1450 Scalp Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15904 • 814.262.7494

Learn more at conemaugh.org.

We work closely with the Epilepsy Foundation of Western/Central Pennsylvania (EFWCP) to help those with epilepsy and their families to learn how to manage seizures, regain confidence and begin enjoying life again. For more information on how the local Epilepsy Foundation can serve you, please contact EFWCP at (814) 262-7494.

In partnership with the Epilepsy Foundation, we offer a free support group for patients and their families. The informal meetings are a chance for those suffering from epilepsy to learn more about breakthrough therapies or ways to better manage their condition. It also gives them the opportunity to share ideas and perspectives, and develop lifelong friendships.

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/epilepsy

Epilepsy Foundation

www.epilepsy.com

Kidshealth.org

Integrative Medicine Advisory Council (IMAC)

www.imacjohnstown.org



July 2017



Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center

The Epilepsy Monitoring Unit

