(S101) TRANSITIONING A PATIENT FROM RESEARCH TO CLINICAL CARE: A MODEL FOR HANDOFF FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS TRIAL CENTERS

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Background: Multiple sclerosis (MS) research trials can last as long as 4 years or more. This can create gaps in a patient’s clinical record. As more medications are approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, managing a patient has become increasingly complex, because the newer agents not only appear more potent but may have increased risks and potentially serious complications. Research participants want to be informed about their condition, the treatment, and its effect on their health. Objectives: This model provides for a smooth transition from research to clinical care and can limit gaps in clinical data. Methods: To provide important data to the patient and his or her clinical neurologist at exit from the study, a form letter is provided to the patient and neurologist that contains all of the following pertinent information from the study: 1) MS-specific assessment measures, physical examination data, and any other procedures or radiologic testing; 2) history of relapses in the study and treatments provided; 3) treatment arm and dosing; 4) any adverse events experienced. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans (radiology files) are also provided. Results: This procedure was initiated in our MS Center in January 2009, with the expectation that both written and oral data records would be presented to each participant and the written record and films sent to the clinical neurologist any time a patient exited a study. Conclusions: With this sharing of data, potential gaps in medical treatment due to disease duration and use of numerous medications over time, lack of information from previous study participation, and cognitive and mood issues can be avoided. This can also ease the return to traditional clinical care.

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