

REFERRAL INFO FOR IMPLANT PSYCH CLEARANCES TIMOTHY L. SAMS, PH.D.

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(INSTRUCTIONS ARE FOR OFFICE INFO. NOT FOR PATIENTS)

(updated 08-01-23)

We are dedicated to making your patient's psych clearance a genuinely positive experience. Having cleared over 15,000 patients for implantable therapies, I complete a clearance with a brief interview, modest psych testing, neuromodulation and coping education, and a one-page report. I am dedicated to eliminating all the barriers to quick, efficient stim clearances.

1. A **referral** is established when a formal referral is emailed or faxed by an office, and not by a phone call from an office, a patient, or a manufacturer's rep.
2. We strongly prefer that your office use our referral form (which is attached). If you use your own referral form, it should state clearly that the patient is being referred for a psychological clearance for neurostimulation. "Refer for a Psych Assessment," or the equivalent, at the end of a progress note is insufficient to establish a clearance referral. ***The form must clearly mention refer for psychological clearance of neurostimulator, intrathecal pump, or spine surgery.***
3. Calls will be made on successive days to reach the patient. If contact is not made, we will close out the referral and notify your office. If we subsequently receive a call from the patient, we will proceed immediately with interview and submit the report. By notifying the referring office that the referral is closed, the referring office can address the inability to contact the patient.
4. We accept Medicare. We don't accept **Advantage** plans. Cash patients will pay \$159.00 as payment in full at the time of service.

Attached to these instructions is the clearance referral form along with the New Patient Packet that the patient needs to complete at the referring doctor's office. Your office submits the referral **and** the completed New Patient Packet to our office by email or fax. Encourage the patients to complete the packet while still in your office; patients may take days or weeks to complete and submit if they take the packet home. Dr. Sams will contact the patient; complete the interview by tele-clearance; and submit the report to your office the same day. We routinely turnaround clearances from referral to report in one to two days with compliant patients. The number we will be calling from is area code 760 or 442 or 208.

As a pain psychologist, I am dedicated to driving the process of implant to a quick, successful conclusion. If you have any questions please feel free to contact my office at my NEW contact info at 760-404-0183, fax 714-526-1602, or email scsdrsams@gmail.com. I look forward to working with you.

Dr. Tim Sams
Pain Psychologist