

Cure SMA Therapist Mentoring Program

Purpose

The purposes of the Cure SMA Therapist Mentoring Program are to:

- Provide information, experiences, and resources for physical and occupational therapists that are new to SMA or seeking additional experience to improve the quality of care delivered
- Increase access to therapists who can perform motor function evaluations

Funding is provided for Mentee travel.

SMA Therapist Mentor

Qualifications

The physical or occupational therapist mentor should have at least 5 years of experience in the field of SMA care. Mentors should actively seek new information to stay current in the field of physical or occupational therapy and SMA. The mentor must be willing to host a mentee at their center and maintain contact for at least three months post visit.

Role

The SMA physical and occupational therapist mentor will serve as a resource for therapists who are new to the SMA population or seeking additional experience. The interactions will include a face-to-face meeting, site visit, phone calls, and email contact.

SMA Therapist Mentee

Role

The SMA physical or occupational therapist mentee will be paired with a therapist mentor who will serve as a resource for information about therapy care for the SMA population. The interactions will include a face to face meeting, site visit, phone and email contact. Mentees should be dedicated to the field of physical therapy care, and have the intention of continuing in the field of SMA for at least 2 years after program completion.

Program Format

A program facilitator will be assigned to each matched mentor/mentee pair to help with the program administration and to answer questions.



Initial Interaction/Pre Site Visit

Prior to match the mentor will:

1. Participate in mentor conference call.
2. Review:
 - a. SMA Standard of Care information and the musculoskeletal Care Series Booklet
 - b. Review functional scale evaluation tools:
 - i. Hammersmith Infant Neurological Examination (HINE) (infant to early childhood)
 - ii. Hammersmith Functional Motor Scale — Expanded (HFMSE)
 - iii. Upper Limb Module test (non-ambulatory members) (ULM)
 - iv. Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Infant Test of Neuromuscular Disorders (CHOP-Intend)
 - v. Six-minute walk test (ambulatory)

Mentor/mentee match criteria:

Patient population: pediatric, adult, both

Type of experience needed: inpatient, outpatient, both, physical therapy, occupational therapy.

Geographical location

Initial phone contact to include:

Introduction with background information.

Discuss mentee educational objectives for the program (should identify 2-3)

Discuss potential meeting dates

Pre-visit planning:

Mentor and mentee will notify respective SMA team, and assigned program facilitator of upcoming visit (approval from supervisor and/or SMA Center Director).

Both mentor and mentee will review SMA standard of care and evaluation materials, make notes of items to address in more depth.

Confirm mentee’s learning objectives

Site Visit

Mentee will meet with mentor’s SMA team for introductions and to ask questions.

Pre-clinical experience

1. Review SMA center outpatient clinic and/or inpatient process
2. Review materials used for assessment and education
3. Attend multidisciplinary chart/clinic review or inpatient rounds

Direct patient contact

1. Mentor to introduce mentee to patient and family
2. Mentee to take notes and write down questions to discuss later



Post clinic experience/wrap-up

1. Time for discussion and for mentee to ask questions
2. Mentor to give final tips, information

Post Site Visit

- Both mentor and mentee will complete site visit evaluations; Mentee should send learning objectives and how they were achieved to program facilitator.
- Mentee to submit expenses to Cure SMA for reimbursement of covered expenses
- Maintain contact for at least three months post visit to discuss follow-up questions or additional information

Educational support provided by Biogen.