What to bring checklist:
+ Your insurance cards
+ List of all medicines you take
+ Clothes and undergarments
+ Books, magazines, games, movies

EMU visiting hours:
+ Family members are encouraged to spend as much time as they wish with you.
+ If you live out of town, Riverside HotelCare℠ features special services for our patients and their family members including reduced room rates, free parking and shuttle transportation based upon location. To speak with a Riverside HotelCare℠ representative, please call (614) 566.5397.

OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital
Neuroscience Center (Silver Area)
3535 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio 43214
Parking is available in the Red Garage and Blue Lot.

Once at the hospital, if registering for your EMU visit, please first go to registration in the Green Area. All other guests may meet you on the sixth floor of the Neuroscience Center in the Silver Area.

NEED MORE INFO? If you have any questions, please call us at (614) 788.6053.
Preparing for your visit

The Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) at Riverside Methodist Hospital is a specialized inpatient unit in the OhioHealth Neuroscience Center where you will have testing that will help your doctor decide:

+ if the spells you are having are seizures
+ how to best adjust your anti-epileptic medication regimen
+ if you are having more seizures than you realize
+ if you qualify for specialized surgical procedures designed to cure epilepsy altogether

Please remember that you should coordinate transportation to and from the hospital for your EMU visit.

What is the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU)?

A specialized hospital setting designed to monitor brain activity and determine cause of recurrent, unprovoked seizures.

On the day of your appointment

Before arriving to the hospital

+ Take a shower, shampoo and shave before coming to the hospital. Your hair must be clean and dry. Do not use gel, mousse, dressings or spray on your hair. You cannot take a shower while you are in the hospital because of the EEG electrodes. You will be able to sponge bathe in your room.
+ You do not need to wear a hospital gown while you are in the EMU. You may wear pajama shorts or pants, or sweat pants. Please bring tops or shirts that button up in the front (no pullover tops) so that your electrodes will not be disturbed. All bottoms must have an elastic waist. Jeans are not permitted. Be sure to bring enough underclothes to last three to five days.
+ Bring books, magazines, movies, games, etc. for entertainment.
+ Please bring all your insurance cards with you. If you have a legal guardian, that person must come with you to the hospital to sign the admission forms.
+ Bring a list of all medications including dosages you take.

Once at the hospital

+ Once at Riverside Methodist, go to registration in the Green Area, on the first floor.
+ After your admission paperwork is signed, you will be taken to the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) on the sixth floor of the OhioHealth Neuroscience Center in the Silver Area.

Once at the hospital (cont.)

+ If you take medication to control seizures, you may have your dosage changed or stopped so that seizures can occur, be recorded and analyzed. You will be given an IV, if needed, to stop a seizure. This will be discussed with you before any changes to your medication(s) are made.
+ Please do not chew gum, tobacco or hard candy as it may disturb the electroencephalogram (EEG) recording.

What to expect while you are in the EMU

+ A neurodiagnostic technologist, a registered nurse and a patient care technician will observe and care for you 24 hours a day.
+ You will be connected to video and computerized EEG monitoring equipment continuously (24 hours a day). To ensure adequate video monitoring, overhead lights will remain on or slightly dimmed 24 hours a day. If you wish to use a sleep mask, please bring one which ties in the back. Although you may feel that there is a lack of privacy, continuous monitoring is necessary to help safeguard your health and gather needed information to help you.
+ Because the EEG wires are connected to the recording equipment, this may restrict your mobility. Please expect to spend most of your time sitting in bed or in a nearby chair. You will be able to use the bathroom when necessary, but you may need someone with you whenever you are out of bed, especially if you are having seizures.
+ If you experience an aura, a warning that sometimes occurs prior to a seizure, you should report this to an EMU staff member.
+ When you have a seizure, the neurodiagnostic technologist and/or nurse will come be with you.
+ You may be sleep deprived. Beginning the first day, you will not be able to sleep until 3 to 7 a.m. Then you will be woken up by EEG staff. Please plan to have someone else drive you home once you are discharged.