

DELIVERING EXCELLENCE
in multiple sclerosis care in the UK



Al-Araji
Specialist MS Clinic

Information
about our clinic

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Welcome to our specialised MS clinic!

**We know that every person's MS is unique to them,
and we want to make sure that the care they receive is too.**

Our model of care

We have a range of healthcare professionals, all contributing their own expert knowledge and experience to supporting our patients. We want to enable coordinated care to both help people with MS to manage their condition and to promote independence, comfort, function, health and wellbeing.

The team is ready to listen, understand and co-create a bespoke treatment plan for anyone living with MS.

Our multi-award winning team uses the most effective medical advances and state-of-the-art treatments so our patients can optimally manage their MS, leaving them free to live their lives.

We believe that living with a complex condition should prompt a comprehensive approach to treatment. For our team, that means looking at an individual's experience of MS from every angle, treating, supporting and helping them to live with all aspects of the condition, from pain or fatigue to movement to emotional state.

We know from both research and experience that the best way to do this is through a range of professionals with different skillsets and specialisms who all work together in a close-knit team. This is known as a 'multi-disciplinary team' and it's the core to our clinic's model of care.

At a visit to our clinic, you can expect:

1. A detailed and comprehensive assessment for all of your needs, addressing all aspects of how you experience your condition.
2. A clear and detailed medical report summarising all of our findings including MRI scans and multi-disciplinary assessment.
3. A clear treatment plan discussed and agreed with you and your family.
4. Clear communication of that assessment and plan with your existing healthcare professionals for the best possible outcome, and an option to discuss this with them directly.
5. Access to the most recent and advanced, internationally recognised, evidence-based MS medications including DMTs and MS symptoms treatments.
6. Agreement with you of the best place to access any medication, treatments or therapies decided on in your visit, depending on your personal preferences and circumstances.
7. Plenty of time to discuss or ask questions about any element of your clinic visit, from the assessment to treatments or what comes next.
8. Agreement of how and where your treatment plan will be monitored to make sure it is working as well as possible for you.
9. Discussion and agreement on any follow-up appointments with our clinic, if it is needed, or you request it.



Pre-assessment

We review all of the medical information and test results provided to us by our client, the person living with MS. On arrival, we will also ask for our clients to give us a detailed history in their own words to make sure we completely understand their experience of MS to date.

Our assessment will be carried out in a 'one-stop' multi-disciplinary clinic session and afterwards, there will be an opportunity to discuss all of our findings. This will include an explanation of any diagnosis, the 'classification' or 'type' MS that our client has, and what that means for them in practical terms.

We aim to make sure that both the person with MS and any friends or family who are with them at the appointment completely understand our findings before we start to discuss what treatment options there might be. It's important to us that everyone is totally confident in the decisions made as we discuss and advise a treatment plan.



Fees and finance

The cost of the assessment package will be worked out based on the number of tests you need and the number of specialists you need to see during your assessment. Because of this, there is not a set cost. Once we have reviewed your documents and scans, we will know what our recommendations for your assessment are, and so can quote the package cost then.

The package fee will not include the cost of our suggested treatments following your assessment. If you prefer to have your treatments at our clinic, we can quote you the fee with your medical report.

Payments will need to be received before your clinic assessment takes place.

The total fee will be made up of the cost to carry out:

1. A review of all of your history, documents, and clinic special forms that we will ask you to send us in advance.
2. A review of your previous MRI scans if available.
3. Your full assessment consultation including your tests at the clinic, and review of these, to your appointments with each specialist you need.
4. Your full and comprehensive specialist medical report.

FAQs – Frequently asked questions

Would the clinic be suitable for me?

If you are living with MS but have questions, or want another perspective, on your diagnosis, the management of your condition or the way your MS is impacting your life, a visit to our clinic might be helpful.

Our clinic is especially for:

1. Anyone suspected of having MS or those seeking a second opinion on their diagnosis.
2. Anyone with MS who is noticing lots of activity in their MS, such as new symptoms, relapses or changes seen in MRI scans with or without treatment.
3. People with MS who feel they have uncontrolled symptoms or condition progression.

I want to make an appointment at the clinic. What do I do and what happens next?

- Please either call or email us to let us know.
- We will ask you to send information about your condition including your previous tests, MRI Scans, medical records and other notes you think might be helpful for us.
- Dr Al-Araji will review all your documents and suggest a plan for the assessment package which could include further MRIs or other tests, and the range of professionals you will meet with during your clinic session.
- We'll let you know the cost of the assessment package and once agreed and paid, we will book your clinic date with you.

What information will I need to send to the clinic before my assessment?

1. Referral letter from your doctor
2. Copies of all available previous clinic letters and medical reports
3. Copies of all available laboratory results and scans reports
4. All available MRI scans to be uploaded on a special secure website
5. A special Form that we will send you to fill about your condition



What will be included in my assessment package?

Our assessment will last for 2-4 hours and will be carried out in a 'one-stop' multi-disciplinary clinic session, and will include: full neurological examination (including use of the Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS)), tests (e.g. blood or urine), MRI imaging, clinical interviews with members of our team as you need (from continence to mental health), and a complete neuro-physiotherapy assessment

What will be included in my treatment plan?

As with all personalised plans, your treatment plan will be specific to you and your needs. It is likely to include some or all of the following, however:

1. Suggested drug treatment for your symptoms
2. Suggested treatment for a relapse
3. Suggestion to start/continue/switch treatment with a disease modifying therapy (DMT) if needed
4. Suggested neuro-physiotherapy treatment depending on the stage of your condition
5. Advice on managing any comorbidities (other conditions you might have alongside your MS)
6. Advice on any lifestyle changes including sleep, stress, movement and nutrition

Will I have to pay for my treatment with you?

The cost of your suggested treatments will not be included in the assessment package. If, after discussing and agreeing your treatment plan, you decide you would like your treatment delivered with us privately rather than with your local provider, we can discuss the costs associated with that.

Is the service available to international citizens?

Our clinic welcomes referrals from outside the UK. We will do everything possible to make sure we help you send your documents ahead of time in a secure and confidential way.

We can provide any support needed to reach our clinic and we can offer you an interpretation service if you ask us in advance.

If you prefer to have your suggested treatments in the UK, we will quote you the fee to do so through our clinic with your medical report.

What about ethics and confidentiality?

We treat our patients with compassion, dignity, respect and kindness. We act with honesty and integrity towards our patients, their families and friends. To work as the most effective team possible, we do need to share information about our clients clearly and accurately with each other. Understanding this, we:

- Take confidentiality very seriously, and every member of the team works under the same obligations to patient privacy that apply to all registered healthcare professionals in the UK.
- Make sure all of our records are securely stored and no information about patients is ever discussed or made available to anyone outside the team without specific permission.
- Can assure you that every team member is fully accredited by their recognised statutory professional body and bound by the strict ethical code.
- Make sure that the focus on clinical governance is kept and carried out to provide the highest UK standards of healthcare.

Do I need a referral letter?

Yes, you do. To help make sure you get the future treatment and monitoring we agree on together, it is very important that your GP or local healthcare professional are informed and can help make sure you can access it.

For any more information, to discuss the process further or to book an appointment, get in touch with us via email or phone.



How to find us

The clinic is located in Stoke on Trent, a city in the centre of England with easy access by motorways (M6), trains (Stoke-on Trent and Crewe) and 4 nearby international airports (Manchester, Birmingham, East Midland and Liverpool).

Stoke-on-Trent is famous for its potteries and the beautiful national Trentham gardens.



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Read more on our website

 www.al-araji.ms

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*‘We promise to deliver comprehensive and personalised care tailored to your needs. We will explain in detail our suggested recommendations and will listen to your thoughts and concerns with the utmost care.
I look forward to hearing from you.’*

Dr Adnan Al-Araji, Consultant MS Neurologist

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