

# Considerations for Using Telemedicine to Conduct 4-6 Week Follow-ups With Adult Spasticity Patients/Caregivers

Regular follow-ups are an important part of patient care as they enable physicians to monitor and manage patient progress. Telemedicine can be a useful option for these types of check-ins. This guide offers practice considerations for telemedicine consults with existing BOTOX<sup>®</sup> Adult Spasticity patients and/or their caregivers



## BEFORE CONSULT

- 1 Review patient history and progress on BOTOX<sup>®</sup> treatment.
- 2 Determine what you want to ask the patient/caregiver about (eg, goal progress, spasticity changes) and which expectations you want to reinforce.
- 3 If you plan to use video conferencing services, determine how you will visually assess the patient (eg, level of spasticity, muscle tone, posture position) using an appropriate clinical scale.

## DURING CONSULT

- 1 Determine how the patient is responding to BOTOX<sup>®</sup> treatment.
  - Ask: “How has BOTOX<sup>®</sup> helped with muscle stiffness/tightness due to spasticity?”
- 2 Revisit the agreed-upon treatment goals to help ensure alignment with treatment expectations.
  - Ask: “Is BOTOX<sup>®</sup> helping the way you want it to? What were you expecting it to do?”
  - Remind patient/caregiver what they said they hoped to achieve during previous visits and point out where they are today.
- 3 Reinforce the importance of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> retreatment and reiterate treatment expectations.
  - Remind them: “Multiple BOTOX<sup>®</sup> injections may be needed about every 3 months so we can determine the best treatment approach for you. Based on how the spasticity is improving, we’ll determine if any adjustments need to be made in the muscles we treat and the doses we use.”
- 4 Check to see if the patient has their next BOTOX<sup>®</sup> treatment already scheduled.
  - If not, coordinate with office staff to determine their availability for the next treatment to help them follow the treatment plan.

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### Indications

#### Adult Spasticity:

##### Adult Upper Limb Spasticity

BOTOX<sup>®</sup> for injection is indicated for the treatment of upper limb spasticity in adult patients to decrease the severity of increased muscle tone in elbow, wrist, finger, and thumb flexors (biceps, flexor carpi radialis, flexor carpi ulnaris, flexor digitorum profundus, flexor digitorum sublimis, adductor pollicis, and flexor pollicis longus).

##### Adult Lower Limb Spasticity

BOTOX<sup>®</sup> is indicated for the treatment of lower limb spasticity in adult patients to decrease the severity of increased muscle tone in ankle and toe flexors (gastrocnemius, soleus, tibialis posterior, flexor hallucis longus, and flexor digitorum longus).

#### Limitations of Use

Safety and effectiveness of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> have not been established for the treatment of other upper or lower limb muscle groups. BOTOX<sup>®</sup> has not been shown to improve upper extremity functional abilities, or range of motion at a joint affected by a fixed contracture.

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION, INCLUDING BOXED WARNING

#### WARNING: DISTANT SPREAD OF TOXIN EFFECT

Postmarketing reports indicate that the effects of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> and all botulinum toxin products may spread from the area of injection to produce symptoms consistent with botulinum toxin effects. These may include asthenia, generalized muscle weakness, diplopia, ptosis, dysphagia, dysphonia, dysarthria, urinary incontinence, and breathing difficulties. These symptoms have been reported hours to weeks after injection. Swallowing and breathing difficulties can be life threatening, and there have been reports of death. The risk of symptoms is probably greatest in children treated for spasticity, but symptoms can also occur in adults treated for spasticity and other conditions, particularly in those patients who have an underlying condition that would predispose them to these symptoms. In unapproved uses and in approved indications, cases of spread of effect have been reported at doses comparable to those used to treat Cervical Dystonia and spasticity and at lower doses.

Please see additional Important Safety Information about BOTOX<sup>®</sup> on following page.

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### AFTER CONSULT

- 1 Ensure office staff schedules the patient for their next BOTOX<sup>®</sup> treatment and asks them to check their eligibility for the BOTOX<sup>®</sup> Savings Program.
- 2 Instruct office staff to confirm patient is still approved for treatment and educate patient about potential serious side effects that require immediate attention (eg, dysphagia, breathing difficulties, muscle weakness).
- 3 Plan any potential treatment adjustments based on your evaluation and discussion with the patient/caregiver.

### HELPFUL TELEMEDICINE RESOURCES

[American Academy of Neurology: Telemedicine and Remote Care](#)

[American Medicine Association: AMA Quick Guide to Telemedicine in Practice](#)

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#### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

##### CONTRAINDICATIONS

BOTOX<sup>®</sup> is contraindicated in the presence of infection at the proposed injection site(s) and in patients who are hypersensitive to any botulinum toxin product or to any of the components in the formulation.

##### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

###### Spread of Toxin Effect

See Boxed Warning.

###### Lack of Interchangeability Between Botulinum Toxin Products

The potency units of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> are specific to the preparation and assay method utilized. They are not interchangeable with other preparations of botulinum toxin products and, therefore, Units of biological activity of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> cannot be compared to nor converted into Units of any other botulinum toxin products assessed with any other specific assay method.

###### Serious Adverse Reactions With Unapproved Use

Serious adverse reactions, including excessive weakness, dysphagia, and aspiration pneumonia, with some adverse reactions associated with fatal outcomes, have been reported in patients who received BOTOX<sup>®</sup> injections for unapproved uses. In these cases, the adverse reactions were not necessarily related to distant spread of toxin, but may have resulted from the administration of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> to the site of injection and/or adjacent structures. In several of the cases, patients had pre-existing dysphagia or other significant disabilities. There is insufficient information to identify factors associated with an increased risk for adverse reactions associated with the unapproved uses of BOTOX<sup>®</sup>. The safety and effectiveness of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> for unapproved uses have not been established.

###### Hypersensitivity Reactions

Serious and/or immediate hypersensitivity reactions have been reported. These reactions include anaphylaxis, serum sickness, urticaria, soft-tissue edema, and dyspnea. If such a reaction occurs, further injection of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> should be discontinued and appropriate medical therapy immediately instituted. One fatal case of anaphylaxis has been reported in which lidocaine was used as the diluent, and consequently the causal agent cannot be reliably determined.

###### Increased Risk of Clinically Significant Effects With Pre-existing Neuromuscular Disorders

Individuals with peripheral motor neuropathic diseases,

amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or neuromuscular junction disorders (eg, myasthenia gravis or Lambert-Eaton syndrome) should be monitored when given botulinum toxin. Patients with known or unrecognized neuromuscular disorders or neuromuscular junction disorders may be at increased risk of clinically significant effects including generalized muscle weakness, diplopia, ptosis, dysphonia, dysarthria, severe dysphagia, and respiratory compromise from therapeutic doses of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> (see *Warnings and Precautions*).

###### Dysphagia and Breathing Difficulties

Treatment with BOTOX<sup>®</sup> and other botulinum toxin products can result in swallowing or breathing difficulties. Patients with pre-existing swallowing or breathing difficulties may be more susceptible to these complications. In most cases, this is a consequence of weakening of muscles in the area of injection that are involved in breathing or oropharyngeal muscles that control swallowing or breathing (see *Boxed Warning*).

###### Pulmonary Effects of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> in Patients With Compromised Respiratory Status Treated for Spasticity

Patients with compromised respiratory status treated with BOTOX<sup>®</sup> for spasticity should be monitored closely.

###### Bronchitis and Upper Respiratory Tract Infections in Patients Treated for Spasticity

Bronchitis was reported more frequently as an adverse reaction in adult patients treated for upper limb spasticity with BOTOX<sup>®</sup> (3% at 251 Units to 360 Units total dose) compared to placebo (1%). In adult patients with reduced lung function treated for upper limb spasticity, upper respiratory tract infections were also reported more frequently as adverse reactions in patients treated with BOTOX<sup>®</sup> (11% at 360 Units total dose; 8% at 240 Units total dose) compared to placebo (6%). In adult patients treated for lower limb spasticity, upper respiratory tract infections were reported more frequently as an adverse reaction in patients treated with BOTOX<sup>®</sup> (2% at 300 Units to 400 Units total dose) compared to placebo (1%).

###### Human Albumin and Transmission of Viral Diseases

This product contains albumin, a derivative of human blood. Based on effective donor screening and product manufacturing processes, it carries an extremely remote risk for transmission of viral diseases and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). There is a theoretical risk for transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), but if that risk actually exists, the risk of transmission would also be considered extremely remote. No cases of transmission of viral diseases, CJD, or vCJD have ever been identified for licensed albumin or albumin contained in other licensed products.

#### ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse reactions to BOTOX<sup>®</sup> for injection are discussed in greater detail in the following sections: *Boxed Warning*, *Contraindications*, and *Warnings and Precautions*.

##### Adult Upper Limb Spasticity

The most frequently reported adverse reactions following injection of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> for upper limb spasticity include pain in extremity, muscular weakness, fatigue, nausea, and bronchitis.

##### Adult Lower Limb Spasticity

The most frequently reported adverse reactions following injection of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> for lower limb spasticity include arthralgia, back pain, myalgia, upper respiratory tract infection, and injection-site pain.

##### Postmarketing Experience

Adverse reactions that have been identified during postapproval use of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> are discussed in greater detail in Postmarketing Experience (Section 6.3 of the Prescribing Information).

There have been spontaneous reports of death, sometimes associated with dysphagia, pneumonia, and/or other significant debility or anaphylaxis, after treatment with botulinum toxin. There have also been reports of adverse events involving the cardiovascular system, including arrhythmia and myocardial infarction, some with fatal outcomes. Some of these patients had risk factors including cardiovascular disease. The exact relationship of these events to the botulinum toxin injection has not been established.

#### DRUG INTERACTIONS

Co-administration of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> and other agents interfering with neuromuscular transmission (eg, aminoglycosides, curare-like compounds) should only be performed with caution as the effect of the toxin may be potentiated. Use of anticholinergic drugs after administration of BOTOX<sup>®</sup> may potentiate systemic anticholinergic effects. The effect of administering different botulinum neurotoxin products at the same time or within several months of each other is unknown. Excessive neuromuscular weakness may be exacerbated by administration of another botulinum toxin prior to the resolution of the effects of a previously administered botulinum toxin. Excessive weakness may also be exaggerated by administration of a muscle relaxant before or after administration of BOTOX<sup>®</sup>.

**Please see BOTOX<sup>®</sup> full Prescribing Information including Boxed Warning and Medication Guide.**