# Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring (IONM) Patient Education Guide

#### Who is MPOWERHealth?

MPOWERHealth is one of the fastest-growing providers of Intraoperative Monitoring (IOM) in the country. We conduct continuous surveillance of the neurological structures that are at risk during our surgery, including the brain and spinal cord. MPOWERHealth is staffed by highly trained neuromonitoring technicians and physicians who are certified specialists due to their advanced level of training and expertise in the science of neurophysiology.

#### What is Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring (IONM)?

Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring (IONM) involves monitoring the functional integrity of neural structures during surgery, which helps reduce the risk of neurological damage. The IONM team includes an Intraoperative Neurophysiologist (technologist) in the operating room and a Remote Oversight Physician (often a neurologist).





#### Why is IONM Important?

During surgery, changes in neural activity are immediately reported to the surgeon and the Remote Oversight Physician. This collaboration allows for real-time interpretation and corrective action, helping to ensure a positive surgical outcome and reducing the risk of permanent nerve damage. Research has shown that IONM can significantly decrease the chances of nerve damage, providing patients with better clinical outcomes. Therefore, your surgeon has chosen to partner with MPOWERHealth to include IONM in your surgical care.

### Who Requests MPOWERHealth to Be Part of the Surgical Team?

Your surgeon has requested that an MPOWERHealth technician be present in the operating room in conjunction with a remote interpreting physician who is interpreting data in real-time during your surgery.

#### What are the Risks of Neuromonitoring?

The risks of IONM are minimal, but there is a rare chance of bruising and/or infection from the electrodes. IONM does not eliminate the risks of surgery. You should discuss the full risks of surgery with your physician.

#### What to Expect on the Day of Your Surgery

#### Pre-Op Meeting:

An Intraoperative
Neurophysiologist will
meet with you to discuss
the monitoring process
and answer any
questions.

## Monitoring Set-Up:

After you are asleep, sterile subdermal needle electrodes will be placed to monitor neural structures. These will be removed before you wake up.

## Continuous Monitoring:

The electrodes are connected to specialized equipment to continuously monitor neural function. Any changes are immediately reported, allowing for timely interventions.

### Detailed Reporting:

Following your procedure, the Intraoperative Neurophysiologist will perform a post-operative neurophysiologic exam when possible and submit detailed reports regarding the findings of the IONM to the hospital for your patient chart.

#### Who Pays for IONM Services?

In most cases, your insurance carrier will pay for the costs associated with our services. This amount depends on your specific carrier and insurance plan. Our goal is to assist you in obtaining complete coverage for costs related to our services. For billing questions, please contact IOM Patient Billing toll-free at 877-835-1339.

### **Billing Policies**

MPOWERHealth works directly with your insurance carrier for payment. You will only receive a bill if there is a patient cost-sharing amount, such as an unmet deductible, copayment, or coinsurance, as determined by your insurance plan. MPOWERHealth does not engage in surprise or balance billing.

Contact

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