Deep Brain Stimulation Worksheet

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Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgery for Parkinson's patients requires detailed patient/family education regarding the many preoperative tests, the intraoperative surgical process, (the unique wakefulness during two of the three procedures), and the organization of surgical and postoperative appointments that follow. It is been noted that many patients have difficulty organizing these events, which certainly may be disease related.

University at Buffalo Movement Disorders Center's has devised a DBS Worksheet to use as a teaching tool in clinic providing a visual guide to prepare for DBS surgery and to use as a patient flowchart documenting upcoming appointments. The patient is asked to keep the worksheet accessible so as they receive phone calls from our clinic with appointments, they can fill in the date/time and observe a reminder of any special instructions.

The goal for the DBS Worksheet is to reduce patient requests for repeat education and help reduce anxiety planning necessary appointments and instructions. Our patients have commented that the DBS worksheet helps since it allows them to view this important information on a one page flow chart. This impacts our clinic by minimizing clinic time for teaching by using a visual guide, reducing repeat education and increasing patient compliance with appointments and instructions by listing them on a simplified one page worksheet.