**SYMPTOMS AND LABS**

**HIGH RISK**

- Hemiparesis/plegia, paraparesis/plegia, hemisensory paresthesia/numbness, diplopia with ataxia, vertigo and/or unilateral or bilateral visual loss

**EXAM:**

- Examples: hemiparesis/plegia, paraparesis/plegia, hemisensory deficits, optic neuritis dx by ophthalmologist, hyperreflexia, spasticity

**SUGGESTED PREVISIT WORKUP**

- Send to ER or call REMIS if: Disabling and/or acute onset of one or more of above symptoms unable to be managed or evaluated as outpatient (paraplegia, hemiplegia, dysphagia, severe visual loss, severe ataxia) OR alternative diagnosis considered (CVA)

- Request urgent neurology consultation for:
  - New, persistent, subacute symptoms suspected to be due to MS

**MODERATE RISK**

- History of focal CNS symptoms: (paresthesias, numbness, weakness, ataxia, diplopia, history of optic neuritis) which lasted for days or weeks but resolved or improved

- History of recurrent episodes of one or more of above symptoms in the past with recent reoccurrence

- Progressive LE weakness, numbness, ataxia with onset of symptoms in late 40s or 50s

- Existing MS diagnosis:
  - need for transfer of care
  - second opinion on management
  - 2nd opinion for suspected MS dx

**EXAM:**

- Unilateral upper/lower OR bilateral lower limb motor or sensory deficits, ataxia, hyperreflexia

**MRI:**

- Suggestive or diagnostic of MS

**SUGGESTED WORKUP**

- Request more urgent MS evaluation (less than 4 weeks) for recent new symptoms improved or resolved if patient w/o current neurologist OR patient is transferring care from out of state and needs medication management (ex. infusions)

**LABS to r/o mimickers:**

- CBC, CMP, TSH, B12, ANA, RF, SSA/B, ACE, Lyme, RPR

- Routine scheduling for transfer of care/second opinion

**LOW RISK**

- Less than 48 hours symptom duration, non-localizing symptoms, alternative diagnosis considered that would require more acute evaluation (stroke, cord compression, malignancy)

**EXAM:**

- Normal or alternate diagnosis more likely

**MRI:**

- Brain and cervical spine negative

**SUGGESTED MANAGEMENT**

- Consider general neurology referral if still concerned about a neurological etiology

**CLINICAL PEARLS**

- Common Neurologic Symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis:
  - Optic Neuritis (decreased acuity and color saturation, scotoma, pain w/eye movements)
  - Partial Transverse Myelitis (weak legs, numbness, neurogenic bladder, Lhermitte’s phenomenon)
  - Cerebellar/Brainstem (imbalance, dysarthria, diplopia, dysphagia, tremor, vertigo)

These clinical practice guidelines describe generally recommended evidence-based interventions for the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of specific diseases or conditions. The guidelines are: (i) not considered to be entirely inclusive or exclusive of all methods of reasonable care that can obtain or produce the same results, and are not a statement of the standard of medical care; (ii) based on information available at the time and may not reflect the most current evidenced-based literature available at subsequent times; and (iii) not intended to substitute for the independent professional judgment of the responsible clinician(s). No set of guidelines can address the individual variation among patients or their unique needs, nor the combination of resources available to a particular community, provider or healthcare professional. Deviations from clinical practice guidelines thus may be appropriate based upon the specific patient circumstances.