

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a rare neuromuscular disease that affects a broad range of individuals<sup>1</sup>

# Do any of your patients have SMA?

For patients with SMA, progression can be continuous and cumulative<sup>2,3</sup>

## SMA may present similarly to other neuromuscular disorders.

Neuromuscular disorders are a group of diseases characterized by weakness and loss of muscle tissue.

- Because symptoms can present similarly, there is potential for misdiagnosis
- Neuromuscular disorders include muscular dystrophy, myopathies, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and SMA<sup>4-7</sup>
- There are genetic tests available to confirm an SMA diagnosis

SMA is characterized by the degeneration of motor neurons in the spinal cord and brainstem due to insufficient levels of survival motor neuron protein.

- This leads to skeletal muscle atrophy and general weakness<sup>1,6</sup>



Some patients with SMA may have been misdiagnosed in the past or remain untreated<sup>8</sup>



## SMA affects approximately 9000 individuals in the United States.<sup>9</sup>

~85% of individuals living with SMA are later-onset.<sup>10</sup>

	 <b>Infantile-onset SMA</b> (Symptom onset <6 months of age <sup>7</sup> )	 <b>Later-onset SMA</b> (Symptom onset >6 months of age <sup>7</sup> )
<b>Disease progression</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typically don't achieve major milestones such as sitting and crawling<sup>6,7</sup></li> <li>• Severe with rapid progression<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motor function and strength decrease over time<sup>2,7</sup></li> <li>• Variable rate of progressive decline from patient to patient<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Disease impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High mortality within first 2 years of life<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• May require ventilation support to assist with breathing<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• A leading genetic cause of infant death<sup>11</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likely to require assistive devices at some point<sup>12</sup></li> <li>• Muscle strength or function loss occurs for many during adulthood, despite apparent plateaus<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• May be able to sit or walk independently, but as the disease progresses, can lose those abilities over time<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>



If you suspect SMA, Biogen, together with Invitae, offers **no-charge genetic testing** for your patients through SMA Identified.\*

To order a test online, or to learn more about the program, please visit [SMAidentified.com/awareness](https://SMAidentified.com/awareness). Always use the partner code "SMA" when filling out the online form.

\*Positive results from genetic testing are typically required to initiate treatment.<sup>13</sup> Participation in the SMA Identified Program does not guarantee access to treatment.

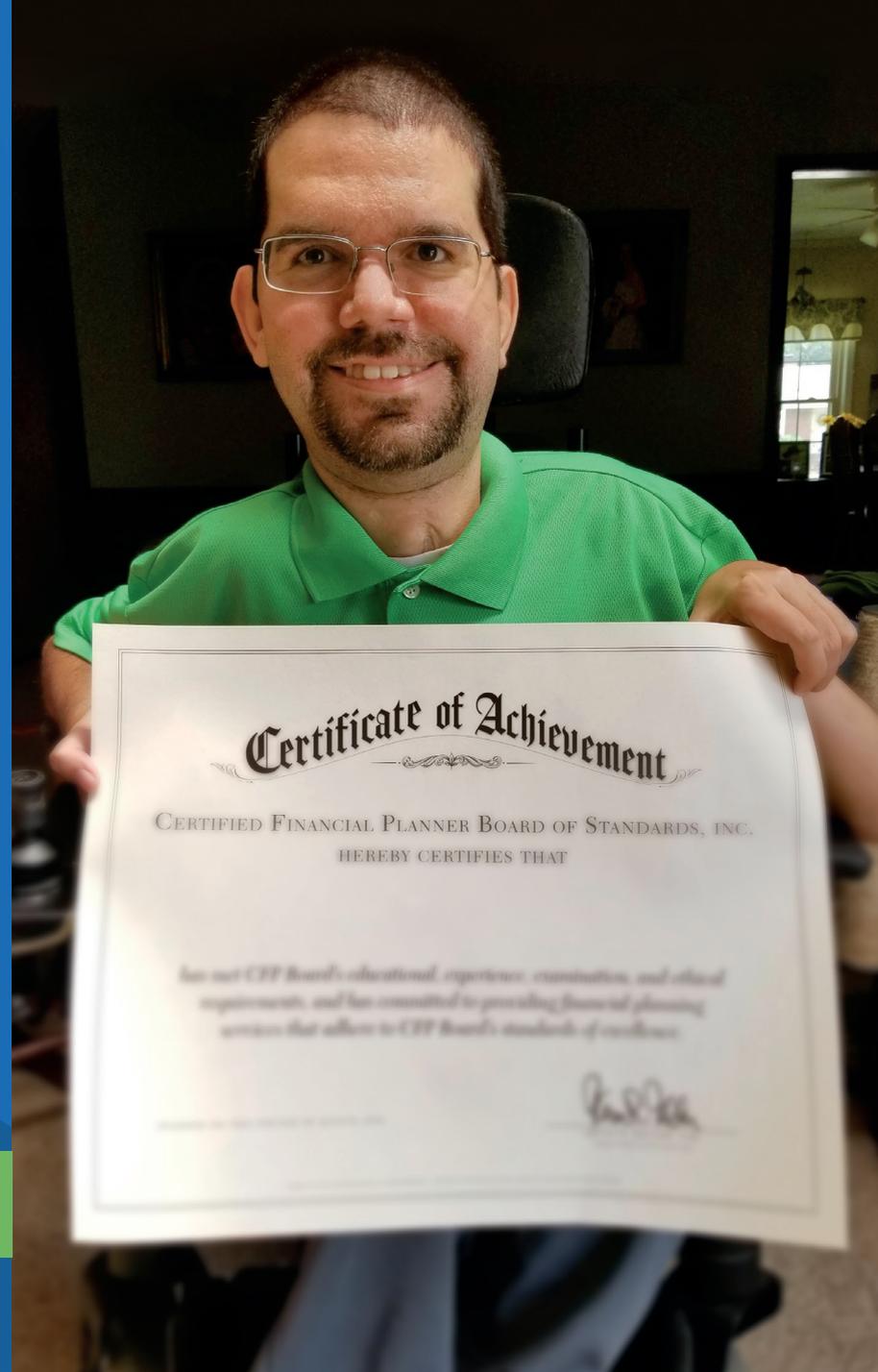
## Progressive muscle weakness, motor function impairment, and disability can affect all individuals with SMA.<sup>2</sup>

The broad range of SMA symptoms includes the following:

- Weakness that is usually symmetrical and more proximal than distal.<sup>6,7</sup>
- Absent or diminished tendon reflexes<sup>7</sup>
- Difficulty or inability to walk<sup>7</sup>
- Respiratory issues that may require tracheostomy or ventilation<sup>7</sup>



Some Type 3 patients can lose ambulation as adults, 20-30 years after the initial diagnosis.<sup>14</sup>



## Motor function declines in all individuals with SMA, though the rate and severity vary.<sup>2,6</sup>

The clinical course of SMA is highly variable. The age at which patients with later-onset SMA develop significant muscle weakness and lose ambulation is unpredictable.<sup>15-17</sup>



### Motor function loss is unpredictable.<sup>14,15</sup>

There is no way to predict when motor function losses will occur or who will experience them.



### Some with later-onset SMA may progress slowly.<sup>2,3</sup>

Declines may not be apparent over the course of a single year but can become more apparent with longer-term follow-ups.



### Loss can occur without clinical symptoms.<sup>15-17</sup>

The objective decline of muscle strength can be detected in the absence of clinical signs and symptoms.



### Adults with later-onset SMA are at risk for progression.<sup>2,3,14,16</sup>

Despite apparent plateaus, many adults with later-onset SMA may continue to lose muscle strength or function.

## Questions to ask your patients about their SMA disease progression.

- Have you or your friends and family noticed any changes in your ability to do certain things from last year or even a few months ago?
- Have you noticed you've been walking less lately, or doing certain activities slower than before?
- Think back a year, 3 years, 5 years ago. What was your function level then versus now?
- What are your concerns if you remain untreated?



According to a survey, the majority of individuals with later-onset SMA say stabilization of their current motor function would be a success.<sup>18</sup>



## Some of your patients may have SMA and may have been previously classified with these ICD-9/10 codes.

Unlike many other neuromuscular diseases, there is a validated genetic test to confirm SMA.

### ICD-9 Diagnosis Codes

- **335.0** Werdnig-Hoffmann disease
- **335.1** Spinal muscular atrophy
- **335.11** Kugelberg-Welander disease
- **335.19** Other spinal muscular atrophy
- **335.21** Progressive muscular atrophy

### ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

- **G12.0** Infantile spinal muscular atrophy, Type 1 [Werdnig-Hoffmann]
- **G12.1** Other inherited spinal muscular atrophy
- **G12.2** Motor neuron disease
- **G12.8** Other spinal muscular atrophies and related syndromes
- **G12.9** Spinal muscular atrophy, unspecified

Identifying patients with SMA as quickly as possible is critical.<sup>2</sup>



# Identifying patients with SMA as early as possible is critical.<sup>2</sup>

- All individuals with SMA can experience progressive muscle weakness, motor function impairment, and disability<sup>2</sup>
- The rate of motor-function decline varies, but affects all individuals with SMA<sup>2,6</sup>
- Some patients with SMA may have been misdiagnosed in the past or remain untreated<sup>8</sup>



Test now if you suspect a patient has SMA. Learn how at SMAidentified.com

**REFERENCES** **1.** Prior TW, Russman BS. Spinal muscular atrophy. NCBI Bookshelf website. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1352/?report=printable>. Updated November 14, 2013. Accessed July 25, 2017. **2.** Wadman RI, Wijngaarde CA, Stam M, et al. Muscle strength and motor function throughout life in a cross-sectional cohort of 180 patients with spinal muscular atrophy types 1c–4. *Eur J Neurol*. 2018;25(3):512-518. **3.** Montes J, McDermott MP, Mirek E, et al. Ambulatory function in spinal muscular atrophy: age-related patterns of progression. *PLoS One*. 2018;13(6):e0199657. **4.** National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) fact sheet. <https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/Patient-Caregiver-Education/Fact-Sheets/Amyotrophic-Lateral-Sclerosis-ALS-Fact-Sheet>. Updated January 8, 2018. Accessed June 12, 2018. **5.** National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Muscular dystrophy information page. <https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/All-Disorders/Muscular-Dystrophy-Information-Page>. Updated May 25, 2017. Accessed June 12, 2018. **6.** Darras BT, Royden Jones H Jr, Ryan MM, De Vivo DC, eds. *Neuromuscular Disorders of Infancy, Childhood, and Adolescence: A Clinician's Approach*. 2nd ed. London, UK: Elsevier; 2015. **7.** Wang CH, Finkel RS, Bertini ES, et al. Consensus statement for standard of care in spinal muscular atrophy. *J Child Neurol*. 2007;22(8):1027-1049. **8.** Nevo Y, Wang C. Spinal muscular atrophy: a preliminary result toward new therapy. *Neurology*. 2016;86(10):884-885. **9.** Data on file. Biogen Inc; Cambridge, MA. **10.** Verhaart IEC, Robertson A, Leary R, et al. A multi-source approach to determine SMA incidence and research ready population. *J Neurol*. 2017;264(7):1465-1473. **11.** Butchbach ME. Copy number variations in the survival motor neuron genes: implications for spinal muscular atrophy and other neurodegenerative diseases. **12.** Chung BH, Wong VC, Ip P. Spinal muscular atrophy: survival pattern and functional status. *Pediatrics*. 2004;114(5):e548-e553. **13.** Mercuri E, Finkel RS, Muntoni F, et al; SMA Care Group. Diagnosis and management of spinal muscular atrophy: part 1: recommendations for diagnosis, rehabilitation, orthopedic and nutritional care. *Neuromuscul Disord*. 2018;28(2):103-115. **14.** Zerres K, Rudnik-Schöneborn S, Forrest E, Lusakowska A, Borkowska J, Hausmanowa-Petrusewicz I. A collaborative study on the natural history of childhood and juvenile onset proximal spinal muscular atrophy (type II and III SMA): 569 patients. *J Neurol Sci*. 1997;146:67-72. **15.** Deymeer F, Serdaroglu P, Parman Y, Poda M. Natural history of SMA IIIb: muscle strength decreases in a predictable sequence and magnitude. *Neurology*. 2008;71:644-649. **16.** Werlauff U, Vissing J, Steffensen BF. Change in muscle strength over time in spinal muscular atrophy types II and III. A long-term follow-up study. *Neuromuscul Disord*. 2012;22(12):1069-1074. **17.** Querin G, Lenglet T, Debs R. The motor unit number index (MUNIX) profile of patients with adult spinal muscular atrophy. *Clin Neurophysiol*. 2018;129:2333-2340. **18.** Rouault F, Christie-Brown V, Ria Broekgaarden R. Disease impact on general well-being and therapeutic expectations of European Type II and Type III spinal muscular atrophy patients. *Neuromuscul Disord*. 2017;27:428-438.