



Myasthenia Gravis
Foundation of Illinois, Inc.



The MG Minute
Brought to you by MGF of IL

Upcoming Support Group Dates - 2015

Chicago - Central

Thursdays

September 3, October 1,
November 5, December 3

Chicago - North Suburban

Sunday - November 15

Chicago - South Suburban

Sunday, November 8

Chicago - West Suburban

Sunday, November 15

Peoria

Discontinued

Rockford

Saturday, October 10

Springfield, IL

Sundays

September 20,
October 18, November 15

NW Indiana - Schererville

Saturday, October 3

[Click here](#) for time, address
and parking details.

Donate

[Click Here](#) to to donate to
MGF of Illinois.

Meet Our Supporters



Summer Scoop



When I was a child, August was a sweet mix of feeling lazy and urgently wanting to squeeze fun out of each day. For folks with MG, summer heat can impose "laziness" whether you want it or not - when muscle weakness is triggered by the heat.

This summer I saw many MG patients choosing fun in the name of raising MG awareness. Maybe you know someone in the [photo links](#) on the MGF of Illinois Facebook page! To help you navigate the less-than-fun aspects of MG, this MG Minute offers ways to learn about the disease and health care.

Be well,

MGF of Illinois Executive Director



What Every MG Patient Should Know

On Sunday, October 25, noted neurologist and researcher Matthew Meriggioli, MD, Professor of Neurological Sciences at Rush University Medical Center, will explain MG pathology, symptoms, treatments, and promising research. His presentation will be part of the MGF of Illinois fall meeting at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois, 11:30am to 3:00pm.

The meeting is free, lunch is included, and donations are appreciated. Click for [meeting details and registration](#).



Find us on Facebook!



Connect with MGF of Illinois' Facebook Snowflake group to share stories and network.

Like our page to receive the Facebook latest MG updates.

Forward to a Friend

[Share this information with a friend!](#)

Via our partner page with Apex Management

Contact Us

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Medicare Late Penalty?

"I got hit with a late penalty when I signed up for Medicare." We heard this from several people in recent months. So we asked Cathy Bajkowski, owner of CB Health Insurance, for details. Cathy explained, "Yes, there is a late penalty if you don't enroll in Medicare (Parts B or D) when you first become eligible and it affects your premium from then on. But most people are able to avoid it."



Click here for Cathy's complete [explanation of the penalty and how to steer clear](#). It's a must-read if you'll be eligible for Medicare coverage soon!

Here's a great resource for all your Medicare questions: <http://www.medicareinteractive.org/>. For instance, you can learn which durable medical expenses are covered, or how to fill gaps in your Medicare coverage.

Raising MG Awareness

This has been a great year for telling the public about the rare autoimmune disease called myasthenia gravis. Check out the [MGF of Illinois Facebook albums](#) to see photos from these events!



- MGF of Illinois' 3rd Annual Strides Against MG Walk
- Kelly Lozada's Motorcycle Ride for MG Awareness
- Ben Maravilla's entry in the Aurora Puerto Rican Heritage Parade
- Ben Maravilla's MG Awareness entry in the 13th Annual Cardboard Boat Race, Fox Valley United Way



Illinois Support Groups
Far South & West

Many MG patients in the MGF of Illinois service area (Illinois and Northwest Indiana) would like to trade ideas with other MGers but don't live close to an existing support group. If you could attend two to four get-togethers a year and live in one of these areas, we'd like to help you get connected:

- Quad Cities (Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and East Moline)
- Tri-State River Area (southeast MO, western KY, and southern IL)

Call 1-800-888-6208 for information.

Note that the Chicago South Suburban MG Group has added one more 2015 date: Sunday, November 8, 1:30 to 3:30pm.

MGF of IL Patient Assistance Program



Launched in 2014, our Patient Assistance Program will reimburse the cost of medical treatment and medication after all insurance payments are applied, up to \$1,000 per person per year*. To qualify you must be an MG patient, be a resident of Illinois or Indiana, and

submit proof of financial hardship. Costs do not have to be MG-related.

You can submit an application for funds once you have more than \$200 in medical bills and paid pharmacy receipts. Click for the [application](#).

* To the extent funds are available

Rituximab Study Needs Participants

A Phase II study is being conducted to learn if the drug rituximab is a safe and effective drug for people with myasthenia gravis who are on prednisone. The study will determine if rituximab will help people take less prednisone to manage their MG or possibly be able to discontinue prednisone.

The study is being conducted at multiple locations in the U.S.; in Chicago, Northwestern University's Department of Neurology is recruiting participants. Click [Rituximab in MG](#) to learn more.

Thank You, Sponsors!

These organizations supported MG patients through their donations to the 2015 MGF of Illinois Strides Against MG

Walk. We appreciate their help, and invite you to check them out!



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