

Stage 1

Mrs Jenny Ridgeway

52 year old lady with MND diagnosed in July 2016.

1 year history of pain and weakness in her right hand which she attributed to tendinitis brought on by her job as a graphic designer for a print and on-line magazine. She developed left foot drop in June 2016 and now has bilateral hand weakness and uses a splint when she walks.

She commutes to London 2 days a week, a 30 minute train journey away, and works from home in her studio the other 2 days. She is finding it harder to get off the train and has stumbled a few times. She lives in a 3 storey town house with her studio on the second floor, bedrooms and bathroom on the third floor. She is experiencing more pain and spasm in her right (dominant) hand and finds it harder to use the computer mouse. Her voice has become quieter and she has not noticed any problems with her swallow. She takes Riluzole 50mg once daily and the occasional paracetamol. She attended the MND clinic 2 months ago and her next appointment is in 4 months.

She lives with her 23 year old daughter Susie who has moved in temporarily. Susie works full time but helps with the housework including shopping and meal preparation. Susie is going to Canada in 3 months for a one year internship.

Jenny has a partner, Douglas, of 2 years who lives nearby. He stays over at weekends. Her 76 year old dad George lives in a nursing home and she visits him once a week.

She has reduced her work from full time and wants to get on with life and be as normal as possible.

You meet with Jenny for the first time.

1. How is the MND affecting Jenny at the moment?
2. Is there anything else you would want to ask her about now?
3. Who from the MDT should Jenny meet with now?
4. What specifically do you want them to assess and provide support with? Document the information you need to pass on for each referral.
5. What difficulties can you already anticipate Jenny will experience in the future due to her illness?