

## Visit 103 Preview - September 2022

### Welcome to Visit 103: What's to Come?

By Dan Fitzgerald, Chicago NWU Site Participant and NCAB Member, and Dr. Zenoria Causey Pruitt, UAB Project Director

As you might already know, the MWCCS study visits are typically organized into two study visits per year. The year is referred to as a “wave”. Wave 103 of the MWCCS Study begins October 1, 2022 and will end on September 30, 2023. This wave marks the 3rd year of the MWCCS study. While final plans are still underway, we thought we’d provide a preview of what is expected to take place at your next study visit(s).

Study waves are organized into a “Core” visit and another visit which is referred to as an “interim” or “short” visit. Terminology may vary a bit, but the general goal is to utilize the participant’s time more effectively. The study’s main activities (i.e., blood draw, measurements, and interview) will occur during the Core visits. However, short or interim visits will be used to complete supplemental activities as well as anything that is missed during Core visits. Hopefully this will minimize the impact, interaction, and data collection for participants. This will also stretch the elements of the study throughout the year.

The general components of V103 include, but may vary by site include the following items:

- Questionnaires – Although many of the familiar questionnaires such as the health history and social demographics will remain the same, you will see several new forms. The **COVID Vaccine Attitude** and Trust form is designed to ask about vaccine comfort levels and your thoughts towards the vaccine. In addition, the **Social Network Questionnaire** seeks to understand who you trust to talk about the personal and private matters of your life. Also forms asking about **STIGMA** will be administered.
- Blood Draws and Lab Work – As usual, blood will be drawn at the Core visit to obtain your laboratory results. Depending on your site, the results will be

distributed to you to help your provider evaluate your health.

- Echocardiogram – This procedure is a noninvasive test using electrodes to check your heart rhythm and ultrasound technology to see how blood moves through your heart.
- Pulmonary Function Test (PFT) – This procedure is also a noninvasive test to show how the lungs are working; measures lung volume, rates of flow, and gas exchange.
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scans – Some study sites will take part in a sub-study that will measure the activity of the brain using an MRI machine. This is a noninvasive test.
- Brainbaseline Assessment of Cognition and Everyday Function (BRACE) and BRACE+ - This is a series of activities that will be performed on an iPad.
- Neurocognitive Crosswalk Study- A selection of individuals will be asked to participate in this sub-study. Participants will be asked to complete pencil-paper task during a 1-hour period.
- Physical Exam – There will be a brief exam by study personnel. This includes obtaining body measurement, weight, height, and blood pressure.
- COVID test- Many sites will continue conducting covid testing. This will vary greatly and will depend on the rules and regulations of the organization affiliated with the site.
- Dental Exam- This visit will start the dental health sub-study. During this sub-study, study staff will be

taking photos of your teeth. The photos will be examined by dental professionals for abnormalities.

- Blood Pressure Crosswalk Study – At some sites, participants with an arm circumference of 40 centimeters and above will be asked to participate in this sub-study. You will be asked to have an additional blood pressure reading taken with a different blood pressure cuff.

Remember not all of these activities will be conducted at every study site, or on all participants, (e.g., Magnetic Resonance Image (MRI), Scans, Neurocognitive Crosswalk Study, etc. Some of the components will be conducted by phone, while others will be completed in-person. Study site personnel will determine which study components you are eligible to participate in.

Your site administrators will also try to balance your time and your interaction preferences (in person, phone, email, etc.).

In addition, study administrators understand the time and commitment it takes to participate in study activities. We truly appreciate all your continued participation; it's truly valued. To help solicit your feedback, sites are considering a survey that would allow you to provide feedback on the visit experience, frequency and content. This will be a great opportunity for participants to be honest, provide constructive feedback, and have a potential impact in this important, long-term study.

**VISIT THE NCAB WEBPAGE FOR MORE NEWS!**

The webpage is maintained by NCAB participants in the study for the benefit of all participants. This preview, past newsletters and other relevant HIV/participant presentations can be found on the MWCCS website/NCAB page

<https://statepi.jhspsi.jhsph.edu/mwccs/ncab/>



**HOW TO CONTACT THE NCAB**

If you have a question or wish to learn more how you can support the NCAB's mission, send an email to the NCAB at [mwccsncab@gmail.com](mailto:mwccsncab@gmail.com)