

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2022

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**Brattleboro Retreat Introduces
Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation
for Treatment-Resistant Depression**

Brattleboro, VT—For some people with major depressive disorder, first-line treatments such as anti-depressants and psychotherapy do not provide lasting relief. For these people, the Brattleboro Retreat, a leading specialty psychiatric hospital for people of all ages located in Brattleboro, Vermont, now offers transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS).

Approved by the FDA in 2008 as a treatment for depression, TMS is a type of safe, well-tolerated, and noninvasive brain stimulation that painlessly applies electromagnetic pulses to the brain via a magnetic coil. This treatment stimulates growth of new neural pathways in areas of the brain that are either underactive or overactive. When treatments are applied daily on weekdays for up to six weeks, these neural pathways are strengthened, helping to improve brain function and mood.

According to Kurt White LADC, LICSW, Vice President of Outpatient Programs and Community Initiatives at the Retreat, TMS is effective for the majority of patients, with minimal risks and side-effects. “Studies have shown that nearly two thirds¹ of TMS patients had either full remission of their depression symptoms or measurable improvement,” says White. He adds, “Unlike ECT, which itself is highly effective, TMS is an outpatient procedure without the need for anesthesia, and without significant side effects.” White explains that some TMS patients feel mild headaches after their first few treatments, but that this typically fades, and that the procedure itself is painless for most people. Also unlike ECT, in which a seizure is induced, TMS carries a very small risk of seizures—less than 1 in 30,000 treatments.

TMS is available at the Brattleboro Retreat with a prescription from a licensed medical doctor. “All of our psychiatrists here who prescribe TMS are TMS-credentialed, and understand the function and benefits of the process,” says White. The procedure’s benefits are cumulative, and typically consists of daily treatments during weekdays for up to six weeks, followed by a three-week tapering period with less frequent treatments. “While the first appointment requires a bit of time for measurements and calibrations,” says White, “most sessions will last just a few minutes to a quarter-hour, plus time to check in with the technician. Aside from travel time, the treatment takes about a half-hour a day and has minimal impact on daily living.”

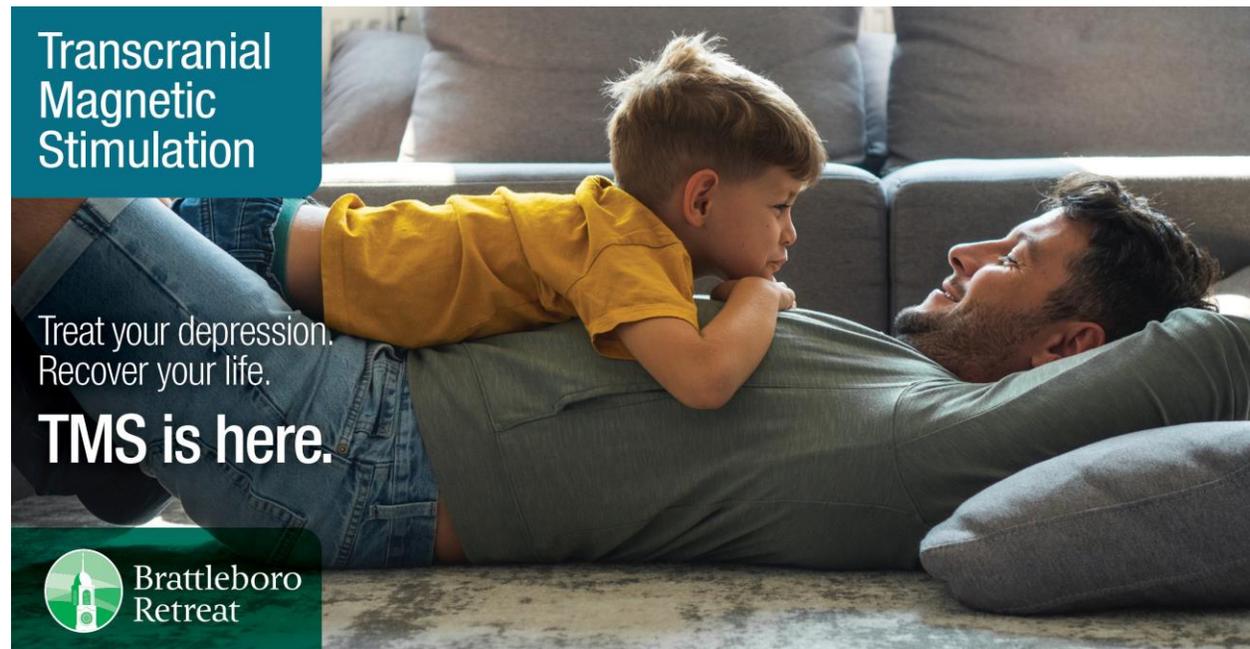
To learn more about TMS treatment, the Brattleboro Retreat directs people to brattlebororetreat.org/tms. Those who wish to know if they qualify for the treatment are advised to speak to their doctor or therapist. They may also fill out a pre-intake form online at brattlebororetreat.org/admissions or call 802-258-3700 or 1-800-RETREAT. TMS is covered by Medicare/Medicaid and most private insurers. Verification of insurance acceptance is provided free of charge by the Brattleboro Retreat.

1. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22689344/>

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About Brattleboro Retreat

The Brattleboro Retreat, founded in 1834, is a not-for-profit, regional specialty psychiatric hospital and addictions treatment center, providing a full range of diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitation services for individuals of all ages and their families. Recognized as a national leader in the treatment of mental illness and addiction, the Brattleboro Retreat offers a high quality, individualized, comprehensive continuum of care including inpatient, partial hospitalization, residential, and outpatient treatment.

A photograph of a man and a young child lying on a couch. The man is lying on his back, looking towards the child. The child is lying on their stomach, leaning over the man. They are both looking at each other. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.

**Transcranial
Magnetic
Stimulation**

Treat your depression.
Recover your life.

TMS is here.



Brattleboro
Retreat