Is There a Cure for SMA?
There is currently no cure for SMA but improved understanding of the condition has led to very encouraging breakthroughs with new drug treatments. Our website has the latest information about their progress and availability. Symptoms of SMA can also be managed so that people with SMA can have the best possible quality of life.

Who are SMA UK?
Established for over 35 years, we’re a charity providing accurate information and a wide range of support services, while working to improve access to the best care, services and drug treatments today and funding research projects that can change tomorrow.

Our services are UK-wide and free. We don’t provide medical services/advice, which must come from your medical team.

How You Can Help Us
We don’t receive government funding and rely on the generosity of our supporters to maintain our services. If you can help us please go to:

`smauk.org.uk/donate`

How to contact us
Spinal Muscular Atrophy UK
Unit 9, Shottery Brook Office Park,
Timothy’s Bridge Road
Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9NR

Phone: 01789 267520
- Mon – Thurs (9.00 am – 3.30 pm)
- Friday (9.00am –1.00pm)
- Closed on public holidays.

Email: office@smauk.org.uk

www.smauk.org.uk
What is Spinal Muscular Atrophy?
Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a rare, genetically inherited neuromuscular condition. It causes progressive muscle weakness and loss of movement due to muscle wasting (atrophy).

Types of SMA
5q SMA is grouped into clinical ‘Types’: 1, 2, 3 & 4, based broadly on the age symptoms begin and the physical ‘milestones’ a person is likely to achieve. The impact of SMA varies greatly both within and between Types.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 1
Symptoms of SMA Type 1, the most severe and common form of SMA, usually begin between 0—6 months. Babies are unable to sit without support. Without intervention for breathing difficulties, life expectancy was previously less than two years of age. New drug treatments and better healthcare are beginning to bring real positive change, especially for newly diagnosed infants.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 2
Children who have SMA Type 2 are unable to stand without support and are vulnerable to chest infections. Though a serious condition that may shorten life expectancy, most live long, fulfilling lives. New drug treatments and better healthcare are also having positive outcomes.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 3
Children who have SMA Type 3 are able to stand and walk, although this will become more difficult with age and they will need more support over time. Life expectancy is normal for people who have SMA Type 3. Better understanding and healthcare, along with the introduction of drug treatments is starting to make a positive difference.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 4
Symptoms begin in adulthood and include mild to moderate muscle weakness in the arms and legs and some difficulty walking. Life expectancy is normal for people who have SMA Type 4.

Rarer forms of SMA
There are other rarer forms of SMA which have different genetic causes. They include: Adult Onset SMA, Distal SMA, Kennedy’s and SMA with Respiratory Distress1 (SMARD1).

How many people have SMA?

The most common form of SMA, known as 5q SMA, is passed from parents to their children through the Survival Motor Neuron 1 or SMN1 gene.

- Approximately 1 in 40 of us carry this faulty gene - that’s around 1.6 million carriers in the UK.
- If two carriers of the gene have a baby, there is a 1 in 4 chance their baby will have SMA.

For more information about SMA, visit: smauk.org.uk/information