Evaluating ME/CFS: A Checklist for School Nurses

By David S. Bell, MD

Although this is not a diagnostic algorithm for ME/CFS, a significant number of "yes" answers to the following question indicates the need for further evaluation by an ME/CFS-knowledgeable physician.

- Did the illness begin suddenly with a flu or mono-like infection?
- Has there been a single week since the onset that you felt entirely well?
- Does the fatigue go away with a good night's sleep?
- Do you have difficulty getting a restful night's sleep?
- Do you have fatigue every day?
- Is the fatigue made worse by exertion or activities?
- Do you have a sore throat at least once a week?
- Are the glands under your neck frequently sore?
- Does light hurt your eyes?
- Are you uncomfortable with noise?
- Do odors bother you?
- Do you have stomach pain more than once a week?
- Do your muscles hurt?
- Do your muscles feel weak?
- Are your joints (fingers, knees, etc.) sore?
- Do you have a headache several times a week?
- Is it difficult to concentrate?
- Do you have a hard time remembering simple things?
- Do you get light-headed or dizzy frequently?
- Do you feel like you have a fever frequently?
- Do you wake up at night sweating?