



MS in Belarus

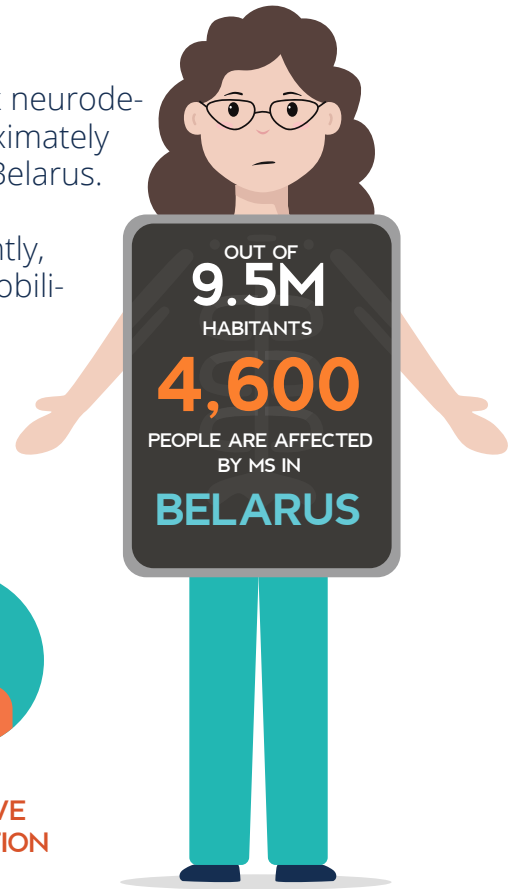


WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex neurodegenerative disease affecting approximately 4,600 of the 9.5 million¹ people in Belarus.

Each person will experience this unpredictable disease differently, but common symptoms often include pain, fatigue, reduced mobility and cognitive dysfunction.

There is currently no cure for MS; however, optimal treatment and support have a significant effect on disease progression and quality of life for people with MS.



PAIN



FATIGUE



REDUCED MOBILITY



COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION

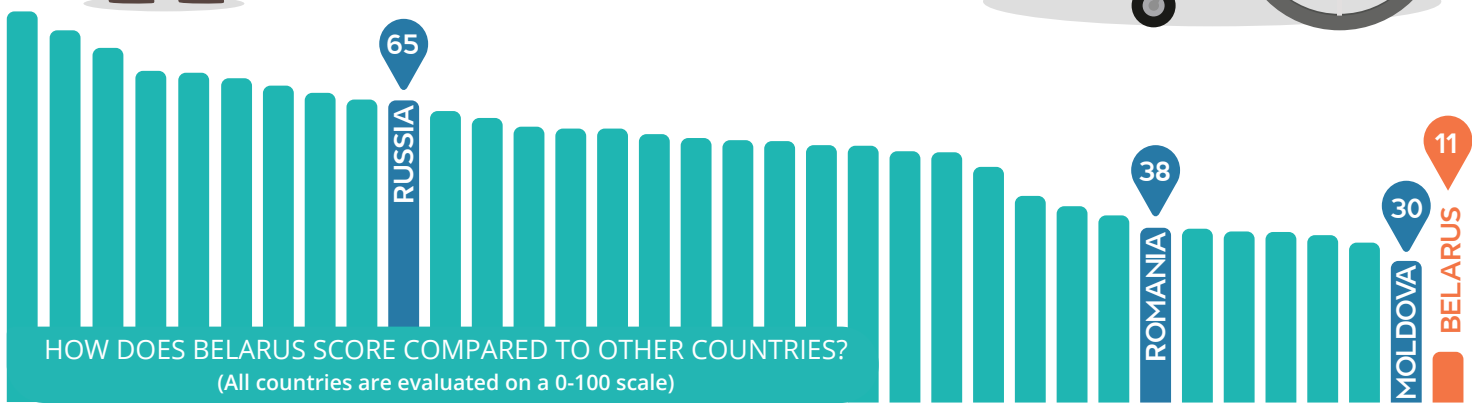
COUNTRY CONTEXT

Access to health services in Belarus is universal through the state-run healthcare system; however, significant co-payments are required for pharmaceuticals and optician and dental services.²

Historically, there has been low prioritisation of social, long-term and mental health care, as well as noted challenges in access to trained medical staff and long waiting times for services.



COUNTRY RANKING



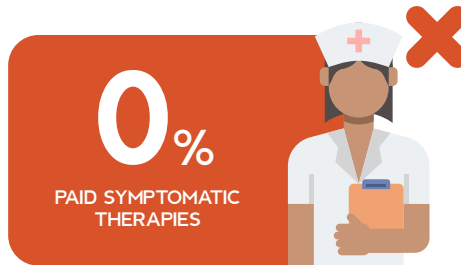


WHAT DID THE BAROMETER FIND?

Access to disease-modifying drugs (DMDs) has recently improved thanks to changes within the Belarus Health Ministry. However, there are areas for improvement in the care for people with MS:



Only 4 out of the 12 DMDs surveyed are available.



All symptomatic therapies are paid for out of pocket.



There is no publicly funded rehabilitation available



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Increase understanding of symptomatic therapies and DMDs among decision-makers and policymakers to support the approval and reimbursement process.



Establish an outpatient rehabilitation service for people with MS that includes physiotherapy and psychological support.

Increase awareness of the needs of people with disabilities throughout health, social and education systems, as part of Belarus's commitments to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



More information can be found at www.emsp.org or contact music.olgab@gmail.com

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