Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex neurodegenerative disease affecting approximately 8,500 of the 9.7 million people in Hungary.

Each person will experience this unpredictable disease differently, but common symptoms 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.

Hungary provides healthcare coverage to almost all citizens through a centralised health insurance fund. However, a limited benefits package results in considerable out-of-pocket payments – double the European Union (EU) average. Government spending on health can be unstable and is below the EU average.

The healthcare system focuses mostly on hospital-based care, with primary and preventive care comparatively underdeveloped.
Significant progress has been made in availability of disease-modifying drugs (DMDs) in Hungary, with all DMDs approved by the European Medicines Agency available at the national level and covered by the health insurance. A new emphasis on neurorehabilitation has been made to support wider efforts in access to rehabilitation, but deficits remain:

- Only 54% of people with MS receive treatment with DMDs.
- There are no symptomatic therapies that are 100% reimbursed for people with MS.
- Under 40% of people with MS receive cognitive rehabilitation support.

**Policy Recommendations**

- Develop a national neurological disease plan that includes holistic treatment and care for MS with an adequate budget for implementation.
- Develop nationally specific treatment guidelines for paediatric MS.
- Mandate electronic data recording and expansion of the Szegedi Sclerosis Multiplex Regiszter.

More information can be found at [www.emsp.org](http://www.emsp.org) or contact rajda.cecilia@med.u-szeged.hu on behalf of the Hungarian Neuroimmunology Society, MS platform.

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