



# MS in Latvia

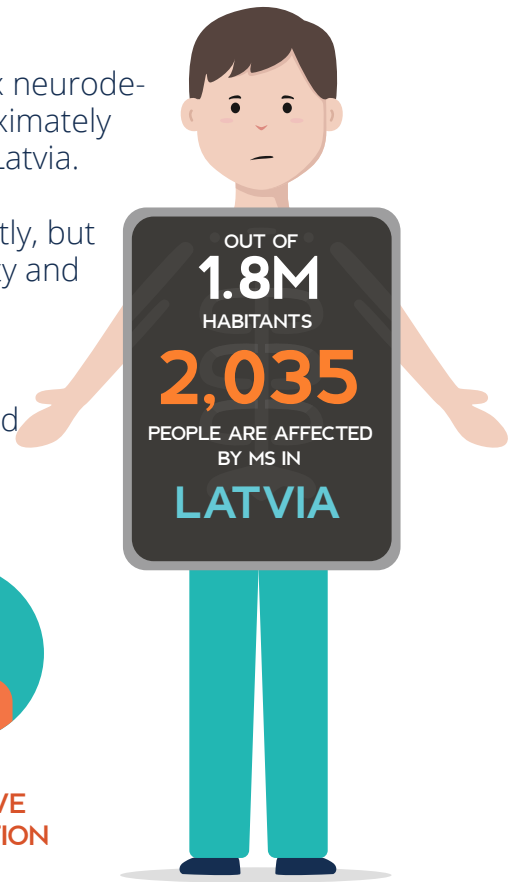


## WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex neurodegenerative disease affecting approximately 2,035 of the 1.8 million<sup>1</sup> people in Latvia.

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

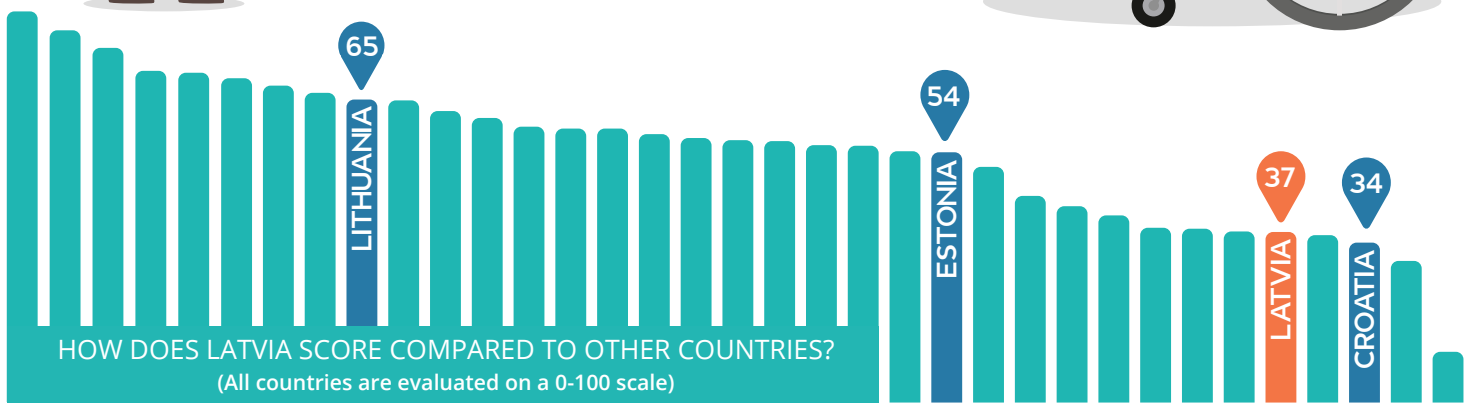
## COUNTRY CONTEXT

Latvia's national health service provides universal health coverage through compulsory health insurance.<sup>2</sup>

Health spending per capita is the second lowest in the European Union (EU) and out-of-pocket spending on healthcare is the third highest in the EU – accounting for more than 40% of spending. This significantly impacts access to care for low-income households.



COUNTRY RANKING





# WHAT DID THE BAROMETER FIND?



Recent updates to the Latvian MS guidelines have been helpful in improving MS care and there is good availability of many disease-modifying drugs (DMDs). However, several unmet needs persist:

**NO**

DATA ON ACCESS TO REHABILITATION

There are no data on access to rehabilitation services including physical, occupational, psychological or cognitive rehabilitation.

**NO**

EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS AGAINST DISMISSAL FOR PEOPLE WITH MS

There are no employment protections against dismissal for people with disabilities or MS, no flexible working practice legislation and no data on employment of people with MS.

**NO**

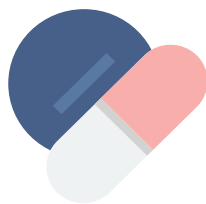
REIMBURSEMENT FOR SEVERAL DMDs

There is no reimbursement for several DMDs and symptomatic treatments.



## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop a national neurological disease plan which includes a comprehensive approach to MS with an adequate budget for implementation.



Ensure all approved DMDs and symptomatic therapies are fully reimbursed by the national health insurance system.

Establish a national MS registry with mandatory data collection encompassing epidemiological, clinical and rehabilitation data.



More information can be found at [www.emsp.org](http://www.emsp.org) or contact [lmsa@lmsa.lv](mailto:lmsa@lmsa.lv)

EMSP would like to thank the sponsors which have financially supported this project including Ammirall, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, MedDay, Merck, Mylan, Novartis, Roche, and Sanofi Genzyme. EMSP retains editorial control of the Barometer.

