



MS in Lithuania



WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex neurodegenerative disease affecting approximately 3,000 of the 2.8 million¹ people in Lithuania.

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

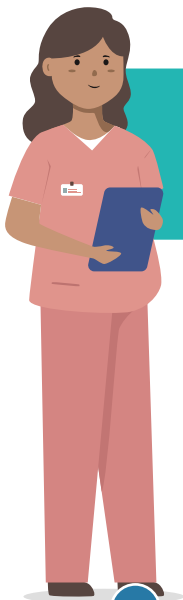


COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION

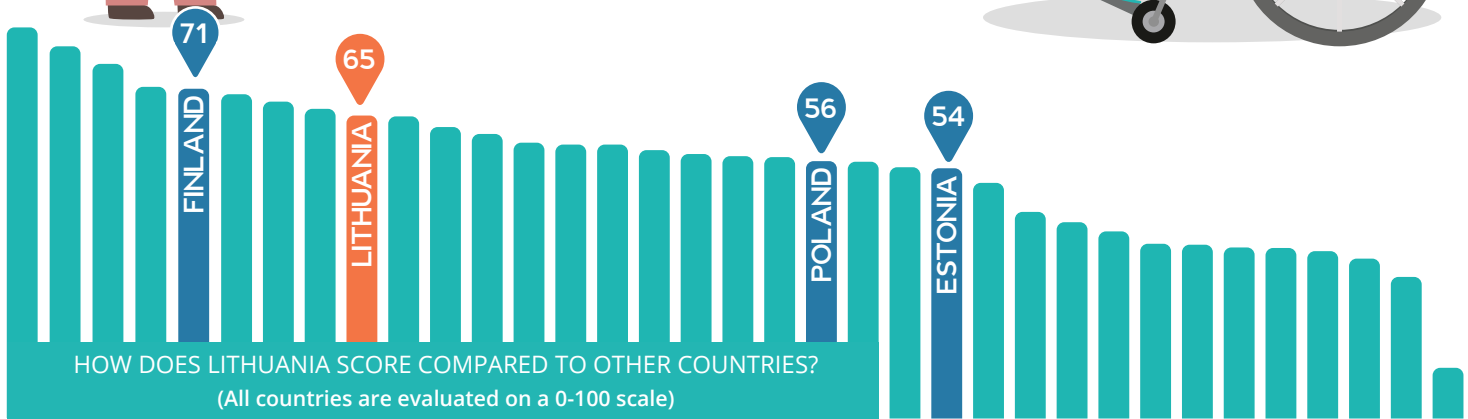
COUNTRY CONTEXT

The Lithuanian healthcare system provides universal health coverage, primarily through its health insurance fund.²

However, spending on health is lower than the EU average, with particular deficits in long-term care. Out-of-pocket spending can be significant, driving inequalities in care.



COUNTRY RANKING

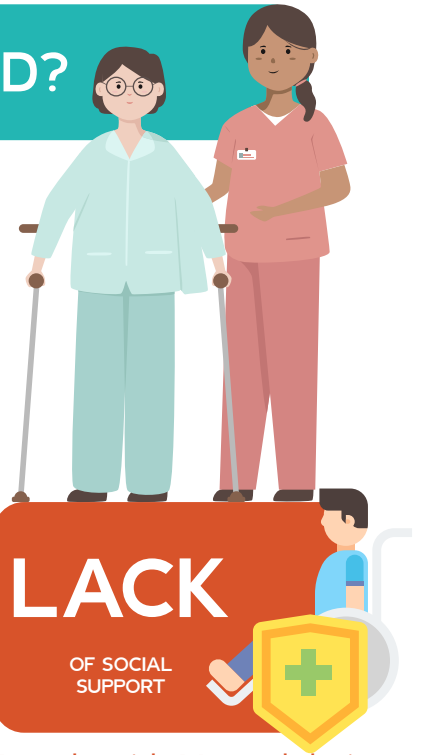


HOW DOES LITHUANIA SCORE COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES?

(All countries are evaluated on a 0-100 scale)




WHAT DID THE BAROMETER FIND?



Lithuania aligned national reimbursement of disease modifying drugs (DMDs) with recommendations from the European Medicines Agency. As a result, DMD access has improved significantly. Yet, important challenges to MS care remain.

15
MONTHS FOR A THERAPY TO BE APPROVED BY THE EMA



On average, it still takes over 15 months for a therapy approved by the EMA to be available nationally.

20
DAYS ENTITLED IN-PATIENT REHABILITATION ANNUALLY

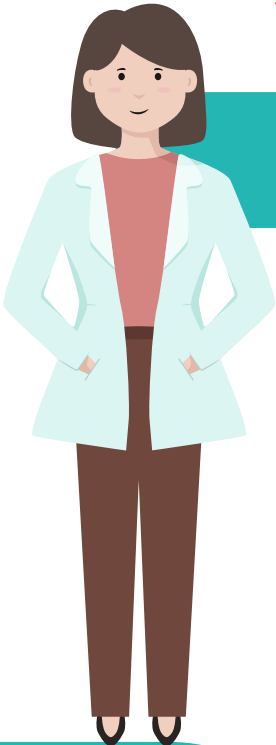


The annual entitlement is 20 days for in-patient rehabilitation or 14 days for out-patient rehabilitation, though implementation and service delivery may vary.

LACK
OF SOCIAL SUPPORT



People with MS and their carers lack social support, including financial support for carers of people with MS.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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



Increase social support for people with MS and their carers, including providing funding for informal carers and improving workplace support to help people with MS and their carers to find and keep employment.

Include the Lithuanian Multiple Sclerosis Union (LISS) and people with MS in the government's consultation group on MS-related policies and matters.



More information can be found at www.emsp.org or contact rasa.kizlaitiene@santa.lt and info@liss.lt

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