



MS in the Netherlands

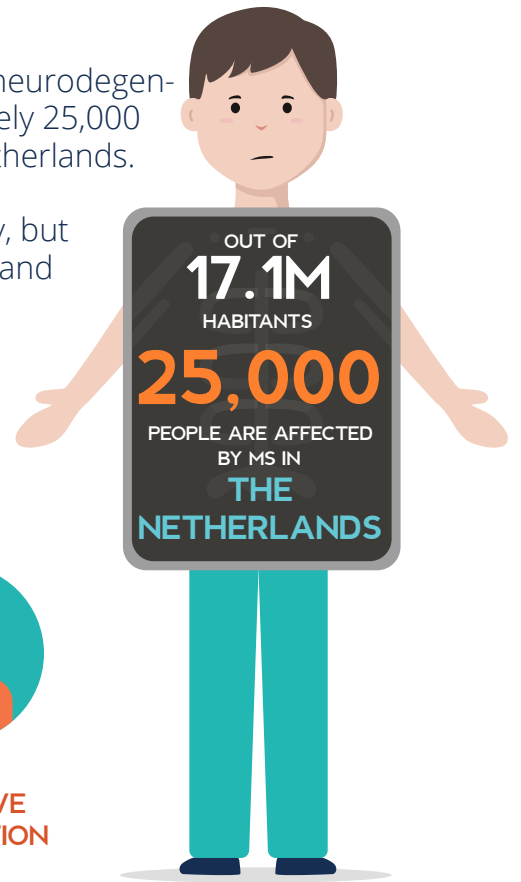


WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex neurodegenerative disease affecting approximately 25,000 of the 17.1 million¹ people in the Netherlands.

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

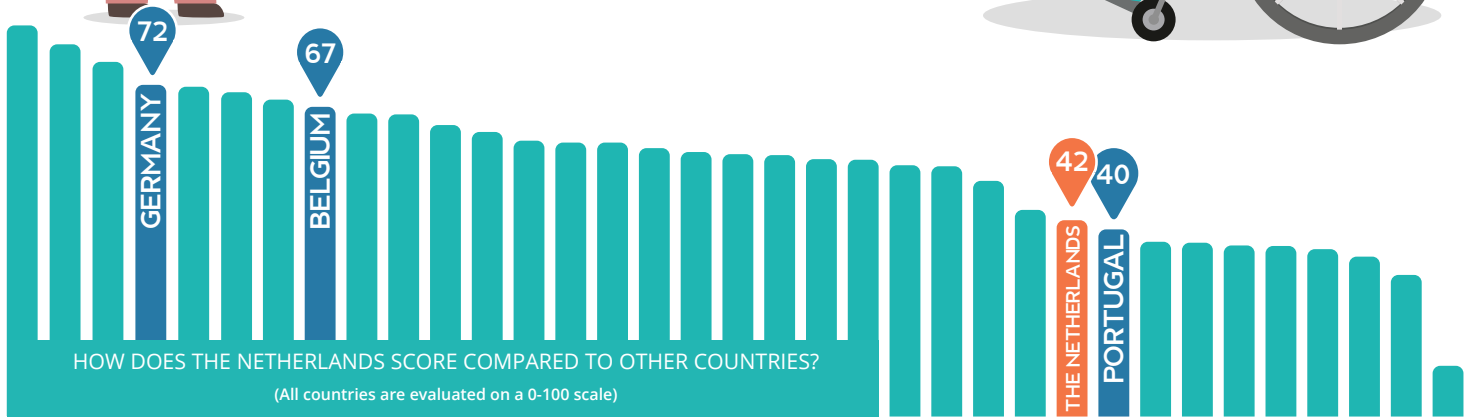
COUNTRY CONTEXT

The Netherlands provides universal health coverage through three central government-regulated health insurance schemes, which include coverage for curative, long-term and social care.²

The Netherlands spends more on healthcare than the European Union average, both in terms of percentage of GDP (10% vs 8.3%) and per capita spending (€3,679 PPP vs €2,572 PPP), and out-of-pocket expenses are low.³ A number of integrated care programmes for people with multiple chronic diseases are being trialled in an effort to streamline care.



COUNTRY RANKING



HOW DOES THE NETHERLANDS SCORE COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES?

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



WHAT DID THE BAROMETER FIND?



The Netherlands has made progress on improving reimbursement for disease-modifying drugs (DMDs). There are 17 MS centres across the country, and MS specialist certifications are available for neurologists, nurses, physiotherapists and counsellors. However, important gaps remain:

NO

PLAN 

DISEASE PLAN FOR MS



The Netherlands does not have any national MS, neurological or chronic disease plans.

UNKNOWN

WHAT SERVICES PEOPLE WITH MS ARE ABLE TO ACCESS



Despite availability of a range of rehabilitation specialties, it is unknown what services people with MS are actually able to access.

UNKNOWN

HOW MANY PEOPLE WITH MS ARE BEING TREATED WITH DMDs.



It is not known how many people with MS are being treated with DMDs.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



Strengthen reimbursement policies for evidence-based MS therapies, and expand uptake of available research on different treatments.



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

Increase the use of the national MS registry to include all people with MS, and collect additional data on clinical, occupational and patient-reported indicators.



More information can be found at www.emsp.org or contact info@msvereniging.nl

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.



1. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2019. World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition. Rev. 1. Available from: <https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>
2. OECD/European Observatory on Health Systems Policies. 2019. The Netherlands: Country Health Profile 2019. State of Health in the EU, OECD Publishing, Paris/European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, Brussels
3. European Commission. 2020. Health at a Glance: Europe 2020. Brussels: EU