



# MS in Spain



## WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex neurodegenerative disease affecting approximately 55,000 of the 46.7 million<sup>1</sup> people in Spain.

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

Spain has a decentralised, universal healthcare system; national planning and regulation are managed by the Ministry of Health, while operational planning, resource allocation, purchasing and care

delivery are managed by each autonomous community. Health spending per capita is below the European Union (EU) average, while out-of-pocket payments have increased in recent years and are now above the EU average.<sup>2</sup>



COUNTRY RANKING



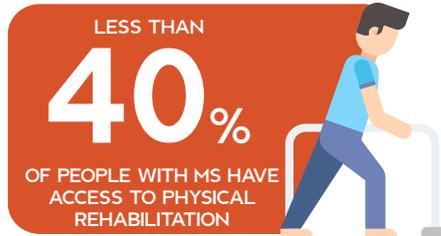


# WHAT DID THE BAROMETER FIND?

MS care in Spain has many strengths, including full reimbursement of all approved disease-modifying drugs (DMDs) and symptomatic treatments, and no limitations on treatment duration. However, significant gaps remain in other aspects of care:



There is an average delay of 9-11 months between approval of drugs by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the national authorities.



Under 40% of people with MS have access to physical rehabilitation, **under 20%** have access to psychological rehabilitation and **fewer than 10%** can access cognitive and occupational rehabilitation.



Employed people with MS are not protected against dismissal due to their condition until they meet a threshold disability status of 33%.



## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Allocate a dedicated budget to implementing the Spanish neurodegenerative strategy, *Estrategia en Enfermedades Neurodegenerativas del Sistema Nacional de Salud*.



Improve access to social support by removing disability scores as the only option from needs assessments for these essential services, #33AHORA *advocacy campaign*

Improve employment opportunities for people with MS by enacting flexible and supportive working legislation, and providing financial and practical support to help people with MS complete their education and vocational training.



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

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