



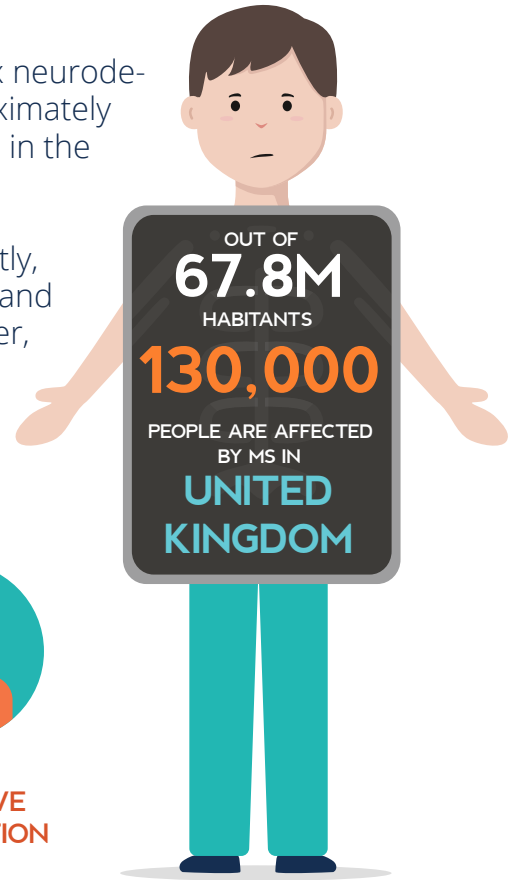
MS in the United Kingdom



WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex neurodegenerative disease affecting approximately 130,000 of the 67.8 million¹ people in the United Kingdom (UK).

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.



PAIN



FATIGUE



REDUCED MOBILITY



COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION

COUNTRY CONTEXT

The UK's National Health Service provides healthcare free at the point of access.²

Healthcare is managed by the four devolved nations, with many elements further devolved to health trusts, health and social care trusts, health boards and clinical commissioning groups. This can lead to distinct differences in care depending on where a person lives. There are also critical issues with access to care due to delayed diagnosis, along with workforce and funding challenges. Healthcare spending in the UK is significantly lower than in other European countries with similar wealth.



COUNTRY RANKING





WHAT DID THE BAROMETER FIND?

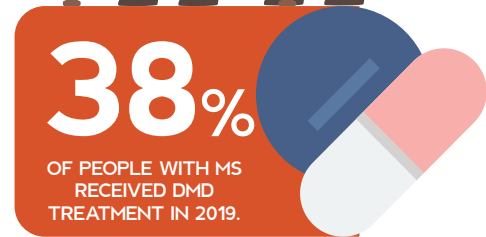
The UK's response to MS includes a strong research environment and almost no out-of-pocket costs for approved disease-modifying drugs (DMDs) or symptomatic treatments. However, there is still room for improvement in important areas of care:



Under 50% of people with MS have access to physical rehabilitation services, and access to other types of rehabilitation is not known.

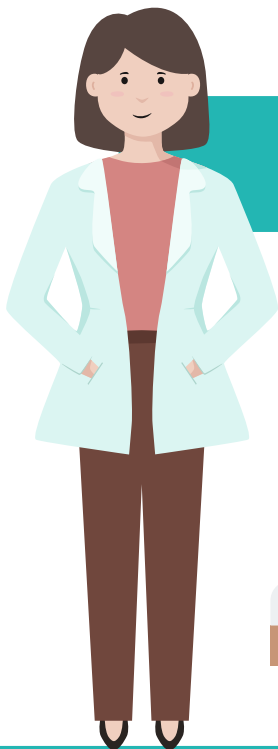


There are 880 practising neurologists in the UK – one for every 148 people with MS.



Only 38% of people with MS received DMD treatment in 2019.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



Ensure each of the devolved nations has a neurological disease plan with an adequate budget and workforce for implementation, which includes a comprehensive approach to MS and aims to reduce unwarranted variations in care.



Increase provision of general and specialist rehabilitation support across the UK, reducing regional disparities in the provision of therapies and rehabilitation services and ensuring that every person with MS has a personalised rehabilitation plan and continuous team rehabilitation.

Improve financial and employment support to help people with MS find and maintain employment and financial security.



More information can be found at www.emsp.org or contact jonathan.blades@mssociety.org.uk

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