



CASE STUDY

Disease Insight Report

Measuring the burden of hospitalisation in multiple sclerosis

The scenario

In order to fully support the Generating Evidence in Multiple Sclerosis Service (GEMSS) research undertaken by the MS Trust, Wilmington Healthcare undertook detailed analysis of HES data to understand why people were being admitted to hospital. This was in an effort to provide an outline of which issues should receive focus in order to improve the outcomes of people with MS. This work was supported through a grant from Biogen Ltd, who had no involvement with the report.

The objective

To identify the main reasons for emergency admission in multiple sclerosis which enables hospital Trusts and CCGs to understand the main areas they need to address to improve patient outcomes and reduce hospital admissions.

The outcome

A detailed analysis of HES data has been published as a joint report by the MS Trust and Wilmington Healthcare.

This report, first launched at the MS Trust Annual Conference, was also shared by Public Health England and the National Clinical Director for Neurology.

The main reasons for emergency admission in multiple sclerosis were found to be bladder management and bladder infections, constipation and MS relapse.

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| a. As a result this report has enabled the data to be used at a locality level to improve patient pathways and services | d. Individual examples of benefit have been from UCL Partners in London who have developed an integrated urinary tract infection pathway for people with MS between the hospital and 12 CCGs. This will fast track patients who have UTI symptoms | 9 months for a patient to be referred for treatment where as in Birmingham the wait is 6 weeks. Highlighting variations like this can bring about changes in pathway development |
| b. Additionally the data has been used as part of a new educational initiative for neurologists so that they can benchmark their MS services and understand how improvements can be made | e. The MS Academy has also utilised this information to audit local services and as an example demonstrated that in Coventry it can take up to | f. The data has also been used by the MS Trust in their Generating evidence in MS Services programme (GEMSS) to highlight local needs for service improvements. |
| c. Initially launched in 2015 the data has been updated in 2017 | | |

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