

Multiple Sclerosis Workforce Neurologist Survey

A. Care for MS Patients

1. **Which of the following factors play a role in limiting the number of MS patients you see in your practice?**

(Mark all that apply)

- Care for MS patients takes too much time
- Insufficient reimbursement for time involved
- Lack of sufficient knowledge to feel comfortable caring for this patient population
- Lack of sufficient knowledge regarding newer disease-modifying drugs
- Lack of special personnel (nurses, social workers, etc.)
- Little can be done to improve MS patients' outcomes
- Seldom encounter MS patients
- MS patients are often difficult to treat
- MS patients often have multiple comorbidities
- Providing care to MS patients is not sustainable in my practice environment due to time or reimbursement

constraints

Other (please specify): _____

2. **Which of the following factors have a positive influence on your desire to provide care to MS patients in your practice?** (Mark all that apply)

- Ability to improve patient outcomes and quality of life
- Dynamic area with evolving treatment options
- Care involving a multidisciplinary approach
- Research opportunities
- Personal connection to individuals with MS who are not your patients
- Enjoy interacting with MS patients
- Community of dedicated professional colleagues with which to interact
- Other (please specify): _____

3. **Please rate your agreement or disagreement with the statements below.**

Compared with neurologists who don't specialize in the care of individuals with MS (including general neurologists and neurologists with other subspecialties), subspecialization in the care of individuals with MS provides neurologists with:

	Strongly disagree	Slightly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly agree	Strongly agree
a. Increased academic employment opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Increased private practice opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Opportunities to do both patient care and research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Opportunities to provide direct patient care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. The opportunity to teach/work with medical students, residents, and/or fellows	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. A patient population with unique medical and intellectual challenges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. The opportunity to perform diagnostic tests and procedures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Opportunities to participate in drug studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Opportunities to earn income comparable to general neurologists or those in other neurology subspecialties	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. The ability to improve outcomes for patients	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. High prestige compared to other medical specialties or subspecialties	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. The ability to balance personal/professional life (i.e., work/life balance)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. A network of high quality peers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly disagree	Slightly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly agree	Strongly agree
n. Enhanced job security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. Sufficient numbers of patients to have a successful practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. **For this survey, an MS subspecialist is defined as a neurologist who focuses a substantial part of his or her clinical activities on care for individuals with MS. Using this definition, do you consider yourself an MS subspecialist?**

- Yes
 No

B. Residency and Subspecialty Training

5. **In what year did you begin medical practice after completing your medical training (i.e., after completing all specialty and subspecialty training)?**

_____ Year

6. **During your residency, did you:**

	Yes	No	Don't know/remember
a. Interact with any MS specialists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Participate in a MS clinic or with a MS care team	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Participate in a research project related to MS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Participate in any neurology research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. **Have you completed any neurology subspecialty training?**

- Yes, I completed a neurology subspecialty fellowship. Please list clinical focus of fellowship: _____
 Yes, I participated in informal mentoring or training in a subspecialty area of neurology but did not complete a formal fellowship. Please list the primary clinical focus of this informal subspecialty training: _____
 No, I have not had subspecialty training

8. **When did you decide whether or not to pursue subspecialty training (which could include formal fellowships or more informal mentoring/training opportunities)? Indicate when you made your decision, regardless of whether or not you had subspecialty training.**

- Before medical school
 During medical school
 During residency
 After practicing general neurology
 After practicing in a different area of medicine

9. **How important were the following factors in deciding whether or not to pursue subspecialty training?**

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important
a. Medical content of subspecialty	<input type="radio"/>				
b. Availability of open spots in subspecialty training programs	<input type="radio"/>				
c. Training program location	<input type="radio"/>				
d. Potential for increased income	<input type="radio"/>				
e. Amount of your education-related debt	<input type="radio"/>				
f. Influence of mentor/teacher/role model	<input type="radio"/>				
g. Personal/family member or friend's experiences with specific medical conditions	<input type="radio"/>				
h. Loan repayment opportunity	<input type="radio"/>				
i. Length of training program	<input type="radio"/>				
j. Other (please specify):	<input type="radio"/>				

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Somewhat important	Very important	Extremely important

10. **Did you consider a fellowship in MS as subspecialty training?**

- Yes, and I chose a fellowship in MS
- Yes, but I chose a fellowship in another area
- Yes, but I chose not to do a fellowship
- No

11. **Would you recommend MS subspecialization to medical students or physicians in training?**

- Yes
- No

C. Practice Characteristics

12. **Which best describes the area in which you are practicing?**

- Within a major city (population greater than 250,000)
- Suburban or moderate-sized city (population 50,000 to 250,000)
- Small city (population less than 50,000)
- Rural

13. **How many weeks per year do you provide direct patient care?** (Direct patient care is defined to include patient encounters, medical record review, consultation with clinical staff, discussion with family, telephone contact with patients, and resident supervision.)

_____ Weeks per year

14. **Which of the following best describes your patient care practice status?**

- I cannot accept any additional patients
- I can accept some additional patients
- I can accept many additional patients

15. **What is the current waiting time for a new patient visit in your practice?**

- 1-7 days
- 8-14 days
- 15-21 days
- 22-28 days
- 29-60 days
- More than 60 days

16. **How many total and new patients (including MS patients) do you see in an average week?**

	All patients	MS patients
a. Total number of patients seen in an average week		
b. Total number of <u>new</u> patients seen in an average week		

17. **For approximately how many MS patients are you the primary neurologist directing care?**

_____ Number of patients serving as primary MS care provider

18. **Do you provide consultation to other physicians regarding the care of MS patients?**

- Yes - Go to question 18a
- No - Skip to question 19

18a. **For approximately how many patients do you provide these consultations per month?**

_____ Patients per month

19. How satisfied are you with the following areas of your professional life?

	Not at all satisfied	Slightly satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely satisfied
a. Your career in medicine	<input type="radio"/>				
b. Your medical specialty	<input type="radio"/>				
c. Your medical subspecialty	<input type="radio"/>				
d. Your current position	<input type="radio"/>				
e. Relationships with colleagues	<input type="radio"/>				
f. Relationships with patients	<input type="radio"/>				
g. Personal time off (work/life balance)	<input type="radio"/>				
h. Pay	<input type="radio"/>				

20. In the next 12 months, do you plan to retire or significantly reduce your patient care hours?

- Yes, I plan to retire from patient care
- Yes, I plan to significantly reduce patient care hours
- No

21. In the past year, have you or your institution/practice attempted to hire a neurologist to provide care primarily for MS patients?

- Yes - Go to question 21a
- No - Skip to question 22

21a. How long did it take to find an appropriate neurologist?

_____ Months

22. Please provide any additional comments that you would like to share on the topic of this survey.
