

A document to define responsibilities in MS care and support shared decision-making



my/MS commitments

This document has been developed with the help and suggestions of people living with MS and MS healthcare professionals

Name:

Address:

Neurologist/MS nurse:

Date of diagnosis:



Take some time to read this document and feel free to ask any questions.

- This document aims to share responsibility for your MS care between you and your healthcare team, and outlines what you can expect from each other
- It lists the commitments your healthcare team will make to you and the responsibilities they would like you to take on
- Being open about commitments between you and your healthcare team can help to build trust and strengthen your relationship
- This document can be tailored to suit your needs.

All the information provided is at the discretion of your healthcare team based on the most accurate and timely information they have available to them. Just remember, it may not always be possible to provide all the information you need at every appointment.

Listed below are commitments for you and your healthcare team.

1. Understanding and learning about multiple sclerosis

As a patient, I commit to...	TICK if agree	As part of the healthcare team, I/we will commit to...
• Telling my doctor, MS nurse or other member of my healthcare team about the type of information I would like	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Directing you to reliable information and resources
• Reading the information given to me and asking questions in relation to it	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Listening to your concerns and answering any questions you have, and respecting that you may not be ready to talk about certain issues
• Asking about reliable resources and patient support organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Letting you know about patient support groups local to you
• Doing my own personal learning about any new treatments I may receive	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Notes and concerns

2. How to get the best from appointments

As a patient, I commit to...	TICK if agree	As part of the healthcare team, I/we will commit to...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping scheduled appointments, if possible, and letting the hospital or doctor know in advance if I need to change/cancel my appointment 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offering you regular appointments to review your care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning my priorities and recording my concerns so that I am prepared for my appointment 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking through your concerns and referring you to appropriate healthcare team members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about my symptoms including invisible symptoms such as fatigue and depression 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asking about your quality of life and how this may have changed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about changes in my MS and general wellbeing 	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>Notes and concerns</p>		

3. MS treatment and management

As a patient, I commit to...	TICK if agree	As part of the healthcare team, I/we will commit to...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering my treatment options and taking my medication as advised 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring you understand the best treatment options for you and helping you to make treatment decisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attending recommended monitoring tests 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explaining the purpose of tests and ensuring you understand the results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telling my healthcare team how I think the treatment is working and any problems I experience 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about how you feel your current treatment is going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about missed doses or stopping my treatment 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respecting your treatment choices and suggesting alternatives if you do not feel your current treatment is right for you
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telling my healthcare team about other medications I take, including: <i>herbal remedies, physiotherapy, diet supplements, acupuncture and homeopathy</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about alternative therapies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking to my doctor, MS nurse or other member of my healthcare team about starting a family 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussing issues around treatment and starting a family
<p>Notes and concerns</p>		

4. How to get the best out of life

As a patient, I commit to...	TICK if agree	As part of the healthcare team, I/we will commit to...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about my quality of life including how MS affects my everyday life and employment 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussing what lifestyle changes could improve your overall wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asking about things I should adjust in my lifestyle and making the changes suggested 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping you understand what things are likely to make your MS worse and how to avoid these
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing my concerns about MS with my family, friends and caregivers 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing how family, friends and caregivers can be supported
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about recent achievements in the management of my symptoms 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asking whether you would feel you need additional support from a psychologist, social worker or other consultant
<p>Notes and concerns</p>		

Use this section to mention any things you would like your healthcare team to know about you, for example, personal goals you have or how you cope at work. Sharing information here will help to build a better understanding between you and your healthcare team.

MS in the 21st Century is a Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany initiative involving healthcare professionals and patient advocates.

EMD Serono is the biopharma business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

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