



Online Supplementary Material

The Clinical and Economic Impact of Employees Who Are Care Partners of Patients with Multiple Sclerosis by Disease Severity. *JHEOR*. 2023;10(1):91-101. [doi:10.36469/jheor.2023.57593](https://doi.org/10.36469/jheor.2023.57593)

Appendix: Assessment of Disease Severity

This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.



APPENDIX: ASSESSMENT OF DISEASE SEVERITY

Assessment of MS Severity

The claims for the patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) were examined to determine the disease severity. Based on clinical input from Dr. Hendin, four (4) body systems were examined.

Patients with MS were categorized as potentially:

- **Severe:** if they had ≥ 1 system category code from the table below
- **Moderate:** if they had no severe codes and any of the moderate codes from the table below
- **Mild:** if they had no severe or moderate codes

Multiple Sclerosis Severity Level Criteria

Body System	Potential Classification		
	Severe: a patient with MS and indicators for ≥ 1 system category below ^a	Moderate: a patient with MS, no Severe codes, and any of the following Moderate codes ^a	Mild: a patient with MS and no Severe or Moderate codes ^a
Bladder/bowel	Overactive bladder and/or visit to a urologist Urinary incontinence AND Rx for urinary incontinence AND visit to a urologist Stool incontinence	Urinary incontinence diagnosis AND Rx for urinary incontinence	Urinary incontinence
Psychiatric	(Depression OR Rx for antidepressants) OR (anxiety OR Rx for antianxiety medications) AND visit to a psychiatrist	(Depression OR Rx for antidepressants) OR (anxiety OR Rx for antianxiety medications)	
Cognitive	Dementia (non-Alzheimer's)	Mild cognitive impairment	
Physical function	Spasticity diagnosis AND Baclofen IV Evidence of a wheelchair Evidence of a fall (Dysesthesia/paresthesia/hyperesthesia) AND pain medications/opioids and a visit to a pain specialist	Spasticity diagnosis AND (Botox administration codes) (Dysesthesia/paresthesia/ hyperesthesia) AND pain-modulating medications or opioids Evidence of cane/walker Rx for dalfampridine (Ampyra)	

^aPrescription codes, ICD-9/-10, and CPT codes were finalized in a workbook with the study team.

Note: Pain, including fibromyalgia, trigeminal neuralgia, other pain syndromes, numbness/tingling, fatigue, soft-tissue disorders, and optic neuritis were not included since these symptoms could be present across the 3 categories.