

Barriers to MS Care for Patients Living in Rural Areas



Availability of and access to specialty clinicians and services¹

- More likely than people in urban areas to see primary care clinicians for MS-related care
- Travel long distances for specialty care



Physical barriers to health facilities²

- Lack of accessible parking spaces, ramps, automatic doors
- Medical equipment does not accommodate MS-related impairments (eg, exam table)

Strategies to Overcome Treatment Access Barriers



Telemedicine¹

- Challenges in rural areas include reimbursement, access to broadband services, mistrust of technology and healthcare



Pharmacy and prescription drug services¹

- Local involvement in managing, adjusting, and monitoring medication therapy
- Assistance programs



Home health services¹

- Skilled nursing
- Rehabilitation

Example:

Home infusions

Recent evidence supports feasibility, safety, and acceptability of at-home infusions of natalizumab² or ocrelizumab³

1. Rural Health Information Hub. <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/>. Accessed September 8, 2022; 2. Schultz TJ et al. *Ann Clin Transl Neurol.* 2021;8:1610-1621;

3. Barrera B et al. Presented at: 2022 CMSC Annual Meeting; June 1-4; National Harbor, MD; Late-breaking poster.