

# THE FACTS ABOUT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

## THE DISEASE

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- MS is a chronic, unpredictable disease of the central nervous system with no known cause or cure
- MS damages tissue surrounding nerves called myelin. When myelin is damaged, the ability of the nerves to send messages to and from the brain is disrupted
- There is a wide range of MS symptoms, including tingling, numbness, tremors, loss of vision, cognitive issues and more

## THE NUMBERS

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- Approximately 400,000 Americans have MS, and every week another 200 are diagnosed
- The Greater Delaware Valley chapter serves more than 13,000 people with MS
- Up to four times as many women have MS as men and most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50
- Lifetime costs of living with MS are nearly \$3 million for medications and other costs

## THE TREATMENTS

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- There are six FDA-approved treatments, but they only slow disease progression and do not work for everyone
- All current treatments require weekly or daily injections and may have significant side effects
- There are no FDA-approved treatments for primary progressive MS
- Ampyra, the first drug approved specifically to treat an MS symptom, was approved in 2010 to improve walking speed

## THE NATIONAL MS SOCIETY

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- The National MS Society's mission is to mobilize people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of everyone affected by MS
- The Society was founded in 1946 by Sylvia Lawry; the Greater Delaware Valley Chapter was founded by Thacher Longstreth in 1954
- The Society supports more MS research and offers more services for people with MS than other nonprofit in the world
- In its history, the Society has directed over \$600 million to scientific research
- There are more than 50 Society chapters covering every state
- The Greater Delaware Valley Chapter serves 18 counties in southeastern Pennsylvania and South Jersey
- Services offered by our chapter include care management, professional education, workshops for individuals and families, employment services, wellness programs, financial assistance, home care, personal care supplies, physical/occupational therapy programs, caregiver respite, health insurance advocacy, self-help groups and counseling services



National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Greater Delaware Valley Chapter

For more information, visit us on  
the Web at [nationalMSSociety.org/pae](http://nationalMSSociety.org/pae)  
or call **1-800-548-4611**.