What is multiple sclerosis (MS)?

- MS is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system.
- MS interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body.
- Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis.
- The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted.

MS Disease-Modifying Therapies

- In 2004, the average wholesale price of available MS disease-modifying therapies (DMT) was $16,000. In 2013, the average price was $61,000; in 2017, the average price of an MS DMT is $83,688 (all average wholesale prices).
- All of the top 10 specialty medication classes, which include MS, increased in spend and all had increases in the price of the medications.
- In 2004, the cost of DMT accounted for about half of the direct medical costs for treating someone with MS; today it is nearly three-quarters of the cost of treating someone with MS.
- Between 2012 and 2017, the mean annual percent increase in cost ranged from 0 to 14.4%. Nearly three-quarters of the MS DMTs average more than one price increase per year.
- DMT prices in the United States are two to three times higher than in comparable countries.
- The continual escalating prices of MS disease-modifying therapies are creating barriers to people with MS getting these life-changing medications. People with MS need medications and the process for getting them to be affordable, simple and transparent.

Access to MS Medications

Request: Support accountability and transparency on medication price increases above 10% in a single year and 25% over three years

All Medications

- The 2016 bipartisan and bicameral FAIR Drug Pricing Act requires manufacturers to submit a transparency and justification report 30 days before a price increase of more than 10% in a 12-month period.
- We support the concept in the FAIR Drug Pricing Act, as well as similar accountability and transparency for three-year cumulative price increase more than 25%.
- Both innovation and affordable access are critical to ensure that people receive the medication and treatments they need.
- Nearly one-third of branded medications increased in price by 20% in 2015.
- Despite Congressional and media scrutiny of increasing medication prices, prices continued to increase in 2016 and 2017.
- Three manufacturers have publicly promised to keep annual price increase under 10% (Allergan, AbbVie, Novo Nordisk).

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MS disease-modifying therapies

- A growing body of evidence indicates that early and ongoing treatment with a disease-modifying therapy (DMT) is the best way to modify the course of the disease, prevent accumulation of disability, and protect the brain from damage due to MS.
- Despite more than a dozen disease-modifying therapies (including a generic) available to treat relapsing forms of MS, competition has not driven down prices.
- All MS DMTs cost approximately $66,000-$91,800 per year (average wholesale price), and the prices continue to rise each year.

nationalmssociety.org/makemedsaccessible
\[ ^1 \text{2015 Drug Trend Report. The Express Scripts Lab: Express Scripts; March 2016.} \\
\[ ^2 \text{2015 Drug Trend Report.} \]
Trends in Annual Disease Modifying Therapy Costs 1993-2017