

Multiple Sclerosis Factsheet

Specialist care provision

Agincare

Caring in Your Community

Domiciliary Care



Our Approach

Agincare's excellent reputation for providing high quality and person centred services is achieved through not having a 'one size fits all' approach to our service provision. Our ethos is to provide a holistic service, which enables you to maintain full control so that it fits around your chosen lifestyle and preferences.

Our experience in this sector has meant that we are continually developing and adding to our already wide range of services and information sources available. Additionally, we ensure that each plan of care is bespoke and tailored to your unique requirements and that we undertake reviews of your care plan as and when your needs change.

Being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis will affect everybody differently and can take various forms. We understand that though it can be life changing, with the right support, you don't have to lose your independence or your sense of self. Our focus is to actively support you to adapt and overcome any limitations, ensuring that the things important in your life, which may include your employment, attending university and socialising, are still maintained.

We do not just focus on the physical effects but the emotional ones too and we will support you and you family to engage with the local community support services and groups as you choose.

Further Information

Multiple Sclerosis Society
www.mssociety.org.uk

Multiple Sclerosis Trust
www.mstrust.org.uk

NHS Choices
www.nhs.uk

Carers UK
www.carersuk.org

Training

All of our care and support workers complete the nationally recognised 'Common Induction Standards'. Specific client needs-led training is taught by internal and external trainers and/or healthcare professionals. In addition to this, Agincare has an internal 'Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Awareness and Management' training programme in place. Included are the following topics:

- Awareness of MS
- Person centred MS care and support
- Promoting self management

Our Training Department works closely with our Group Quality Manager, as well as local and national organisations, to continually appraise and enhance our training portfolio.

“The client assessment of need carried out by your assessor was the best we have ever seen”

Continuing Health Care (CHC) Team



Case Study

"My immediate impression of Heidi on her arrival was of a competent, organised and cheerful person. During her time with my wife she introduced many initiatives including encouraging her to sing, even with her speech difficulties." Husband and informal carer

Early signs of Multiple Sclerosis

MS can cause a wide range of symptoms, and there is no definitive list of early signs. What could be a first symptom for one person may never be experienced by another.

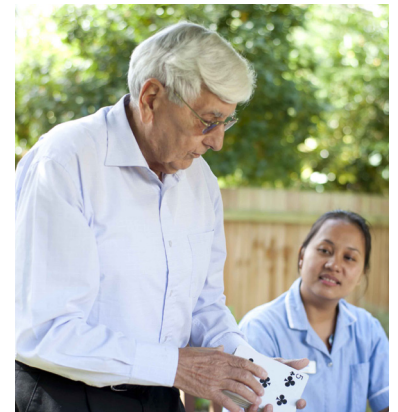
A problem with vision is one of the more obvious early symptoms, but this is often because this is a more 'concrete' symptom as opposed to 'vague' neurological symptoms like numbness or tingling. You shouldn't assume that these symptoms are a sign of MS - not everyone who experiences them will go on to get an MS diagnosis.

Treatments and Therapies

Disease modifying treatments - disease modifying drugs are not a cure for MS, but they can reduce the frequency and severity of relapses. If you experience relapses the drugs may help, but unfortunately they're not effective for primary progressive MS.

Diet, exercise and lifestyle - it can be frustrating if treatments aren't suitable for you or don't work as well as you like. Lots of people with MS find it useful to actively manage their health.

Symptom management - depending on what symptoms you have, there are different practical ways to manage their impact on your life.



Physical Symptoms

- Vision
- Balance and dizziness
- Fatigue
- Bladder problems
- Stiffness and/or spasms
- Bowel
- Speech
- Swallowing

MS can also affect:

- Memory
- Thinking processes
- Controlling your emotions
- Sexual function

Accreditations

