



Multiple Sclerosis

Quick Reference Guide

2026

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1 CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

Definition: **Multiple sclerosis (MS)** is a chronic, immune-mediated inflammatory and neurodegenerative disease of the central nervous system in which autoreactive T and B cells breach the blood-brain barrier and **drive demyelination, axonal loss, and astrocytic gliosis**.^{1,2} It is the leading non-traumatic cause of neurological disability in young and middle-aged adults.¹ Four standardized phenotypes are recognized: **clinically isolated syndrome (CIS)**, **relapsing-remitting MS (RRMS)**, the most common form, **primary progressive MS (PPMS)**, and **secondary progressive MS (SPMS)**, each modified by descriptors for activity (clinical relapses or MRI activity) and progression (disability worsening independent of relapses).^{1,3}

ICD-10 Codes:

MS is reported with **phenotype- and activity-specific subcodes**. **G35** is the multiple sclerosis category, now subdivided into **G35.A** (RRMS), **G35.B0/B1/B2** (PPMS: unspecified/active/ non-active), **G35.C0/C1/C2** (SPMS: unspecified/active/ non-active), and **G35.D** (MS, unspecified). **Activity status** (active = recent clinical relapse, new MRI lesions, or documented progression; non-active = clinically and radiologically stable) **must be documented** to support the active-vs-non-active subcodes.⁴ Commonly co-occurring manifestations are **coded separately**: **H46.1-** (retrobulbar/optic neuritis, specify laterality), **G37.3** (acute transverse myelitis in demyelinating disease), **N31.-** (neurogenic bladder), **R13.1-** (dysphagia), **R26.-** (gait abnormality), **G31.84** (mild cognitive impairment), **F32.-/F33.-** (depressive disorder), **R53.83** (fatigue), and **R25.2/M62.83** (spasm/muscle spasm).⁴ Do **not** code **G12.21** (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; ALS) for MS **unless ALS is independently diagnosed**.

Prevalence and Burden: MS affects an estimated nearly **1 million** adults in the United States, with a female-to-male ratio of approximately **3**:^{1,1,5} Within the United States, prevalence increases significantly with latitude ($r = 0.82$) and ranges from ~161 per 100,000 in Hispanic populations to ~375 per 100,000 in White populations.^{1,6} Although onset typically occurs between ages **20 and 40**, life expectancy is estimated at approximately 74–76 years (7–9 years shorter than the general population) and MS prevalence in Medicare beneficiaries ≥ 65 was 243 per 100,000 in 2021, increasing 15.5% over the prior decade.^{1,7,8} The total per-person economic burden averages approximately **\$88,000 per year** (2019 dollars), with direct medical costs of ~**\$65,600 per year**.⁹

HCC/RAF V28 Mapping

ICD-10 CODE(S) ¹⁰	HCC CATEGORY (V28) ¹⁰	RAF (CNA) ¹¹	DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT ⁴
G35.A Relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis	HCC 198 Multiple Sclerosis	0.647	Document relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS) ; include relapse history, current disease activity, MRI findings when available, and disease-modifying therapy

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