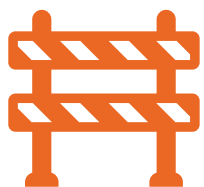


National policy: challenging access and MS drug funding, New Zealand



■ Facing the challenge

- Difficulty for more than 20 years in getting timely and appropriate access to new MS drugs
- Implications for patients
- Precludes timely treatment initiation
- Requirement to stop treating if MS deteriorates by two EDSS points



■ Influencing decisions

- Submission to NZ Government drug-buying agency PHARMAC for extended access to DMTs
- Favourable recommendation from PHARMAC Clinical Advisory Committee*



*The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed progress on implementing this decision
DMT, disease-modifying therapy; EDSS, Expanded Disability Status Scale