

Agreement 5: Multiple Sclerosis Progression Delay Contract

Parties: NeuroPharma and Australian Medicare Country: Australia Disease Area: Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis Agreement Overview: This agreement addresses the high cost and variable effectiveness of disease-modifying therapies for multiple sclerosis. Covering approximately 1,100 patients with relapsing-remitting MS across Australia, this contract links payment directly to delaying disease progression and maintaining functional independence. The agreement incorporates comprehensive MRI assessment, neurological examinations, and patient-reported outcomes to create a holistic view of treatment effectiveness.

Financial Structure:

- Base price: AUD 32,000 per patient per year for the high-efficacy therapy
- Installment payment structure: 25% upfront, remaining tied to outcomes measured at 6-month intervals
- Rebate schedule:
 - 40% rebate if EDSS score worsens by ≥ 1.5 points within first year (indicating significant disability progression)
 - 25% rebate if >30% of patients experience relapse within 12 months (verified by neurologist examination)
- Premium payment: 15% bonus if >80% of patients show no new or enlarging T2 lesions on MRI at 12 months
- Financial cap: Total program expenditure not to exceed AUD 45 million annually with risk-sharing above threshold
- Patient assistance program: Manufacturer covers costs for patients failing means test or experiencing coverage gaps
- Relapse management fund: AUD 1.2 million annual pool to cover high-cost interventions for severe relapses

Duration: 4 years with biannual joint committee reviews Special Provisions:

- Includes standardized MRI protocols and centralized reading (AUD 1,200 per scan, 2-3 scans annually)
- Specialized MS nursing support (1:50 nurse-to-patient ratio)
- Cognitive assessment battery performed annually
- Patient-reported outcome collection through digital platform
- Telemedicine services for rural and remote patients
- Vocational rehabilitation program for working-age patients
- Comprehensive pregnancy management protocol for women of childbearing age
- Data linkage with Australian MS Registry for long-term outcomes tracking