

## **SEPCARE COMPANY PROJECT**

# **Out-of-pocket expenses for patients affected by Multiple Sclerosis (MS)**

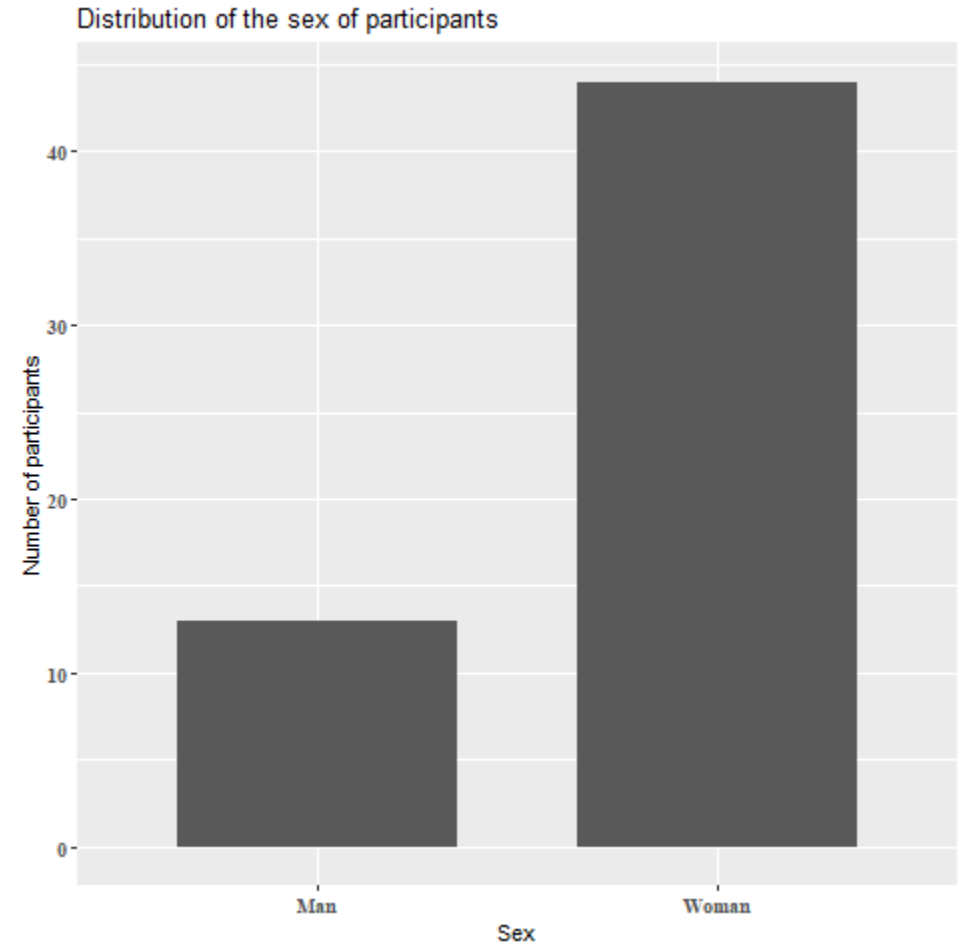
Naila Bouterfa

# Context and methodology

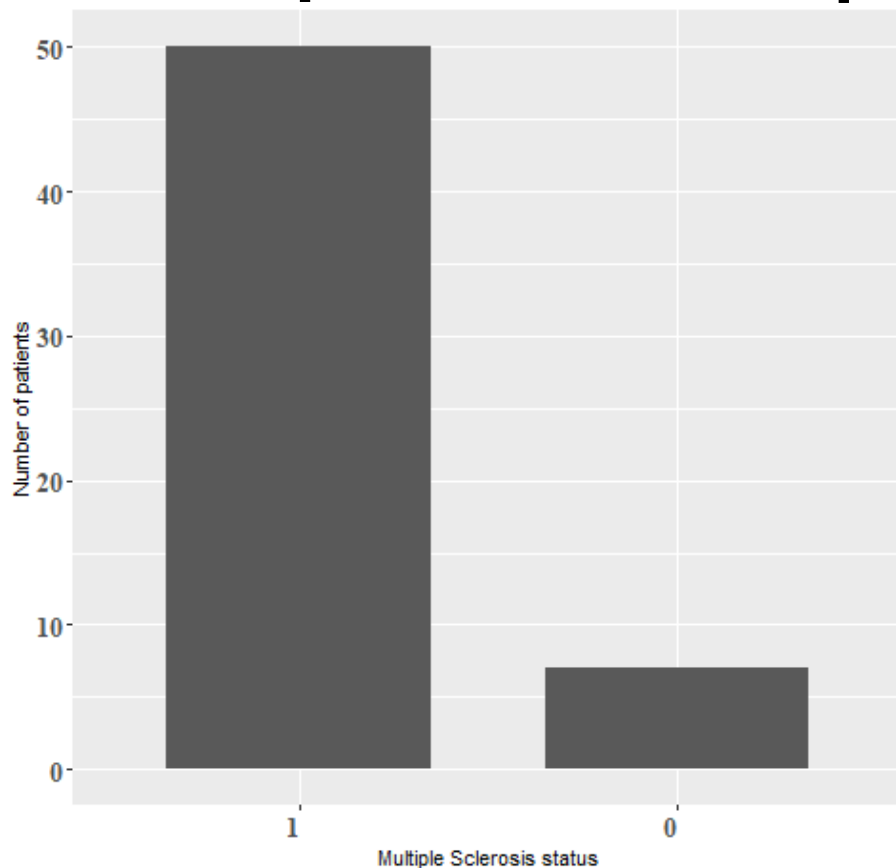
- *Sepcare*, a leader in the sphere of treatments for MS, wishes to carry out an economic evaluation of the out-of-pocket costs (coinsurance) that patients have to cover. They would especially like to understand the impact of the severity of the condition on the out-of-pocket costs.
- Eventually, Sepcare would like to publish the results of this study, in order to build up a dialogue with various stakeholders (politicians, representatives of patients' associations, insurance companies...)
- Members of the MS community on Carenity were invited by email to take part in the study. The questionnaire is hosted on Carenity.com.
- 57 patients have started the questionnaire (50 correspond to the study criteria and have completed the survey).

# Respondant's profile

- 57 persons responded to the study (50 patients and 7 caregivers)
- with a majority of women (13 men vs 44 women)
- The mean value for the first symptoms apparition in patients is 16,5 years old
- For the diagnosis : around 36 years old
- A majority of participants do not work because of MS (19)



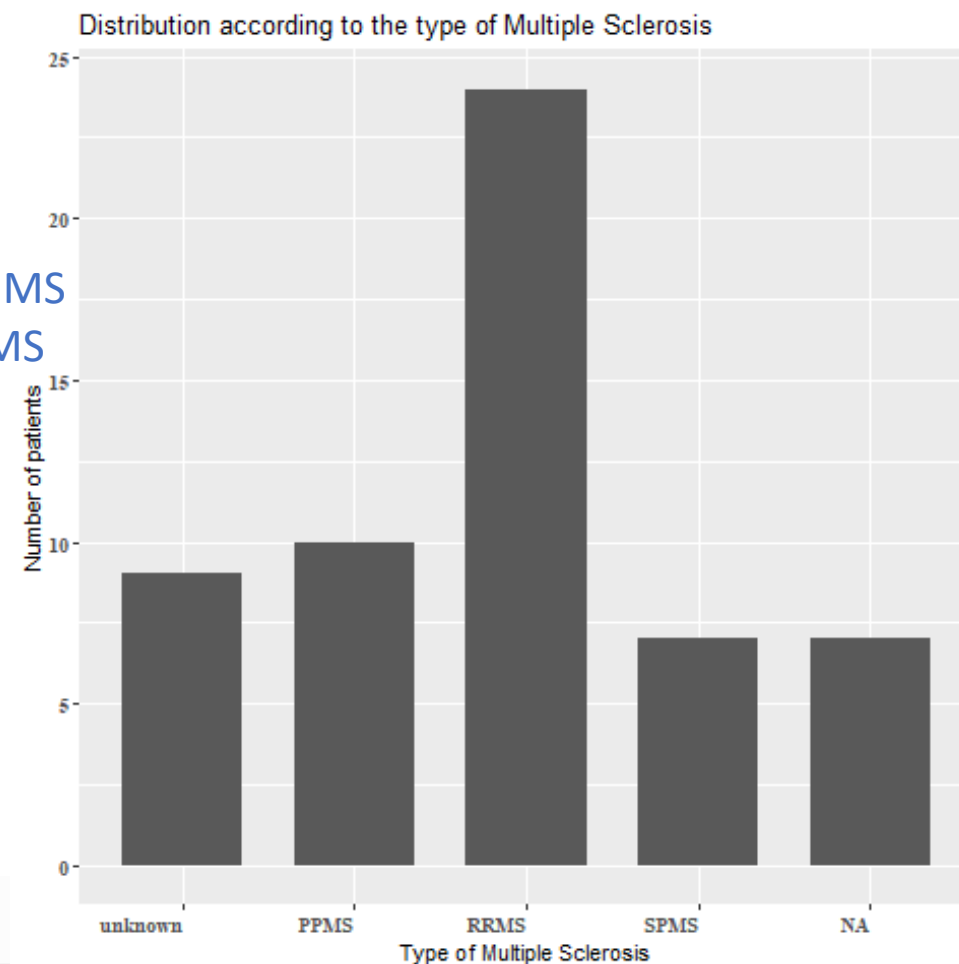
# Respondant's profile



- 50 participants have MS
- 24 patients have RRMS (almost 50%)

Multiple Sclerosis status

label	signification
0	I am affected by multiple sclerosis (MS)
1	I am not affected by multiple sclerosis (MS)



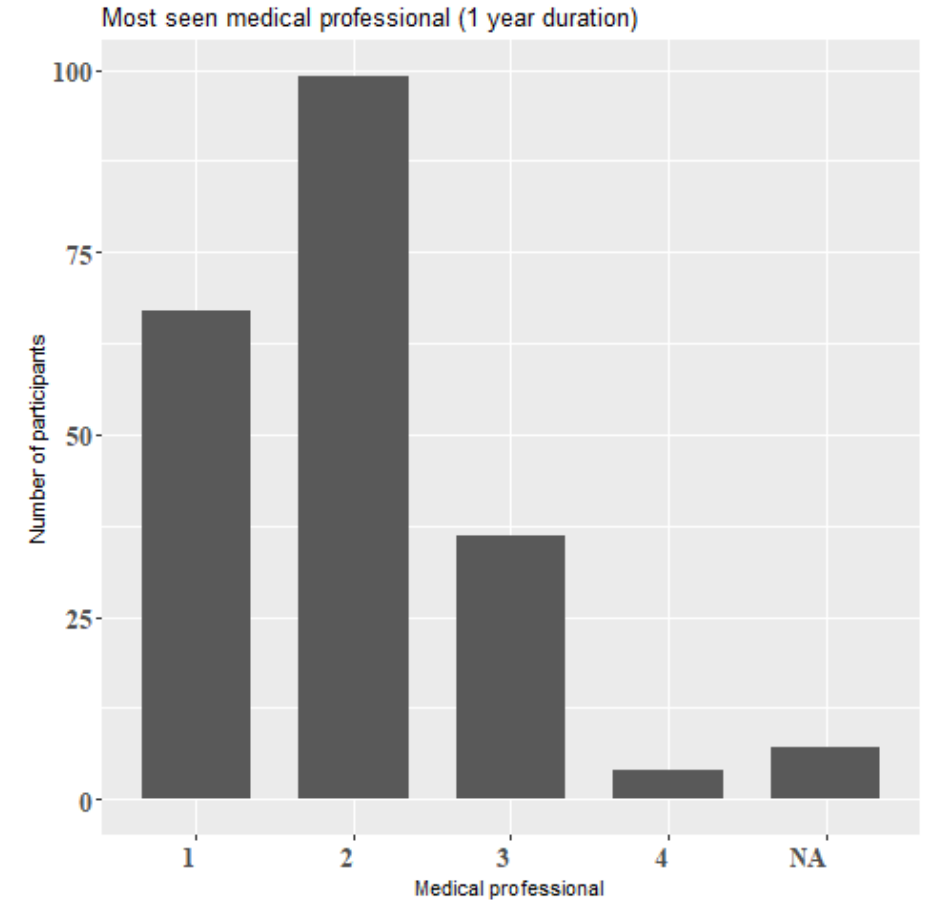
Type of Multiple Sclerosis

label	signification
NA	
unknown	I am not sure/don't know
PPMS	PPMS: primary progressive MS. The condition progresses gradually, smoothly and without exacerbations.
RRMS	RRMS: relapsing-remitting MS. This type is characterised by attacks with periods of remission (periods stability). After each attack, the symptoms can disappear completely or partially.
SPMS	SPMS: secondary progressive MS. After having progressed for years (or decades) in a remittent mode characterised by attacks, the attacks become less frequent or disappear, but the symptoms continue to develop.

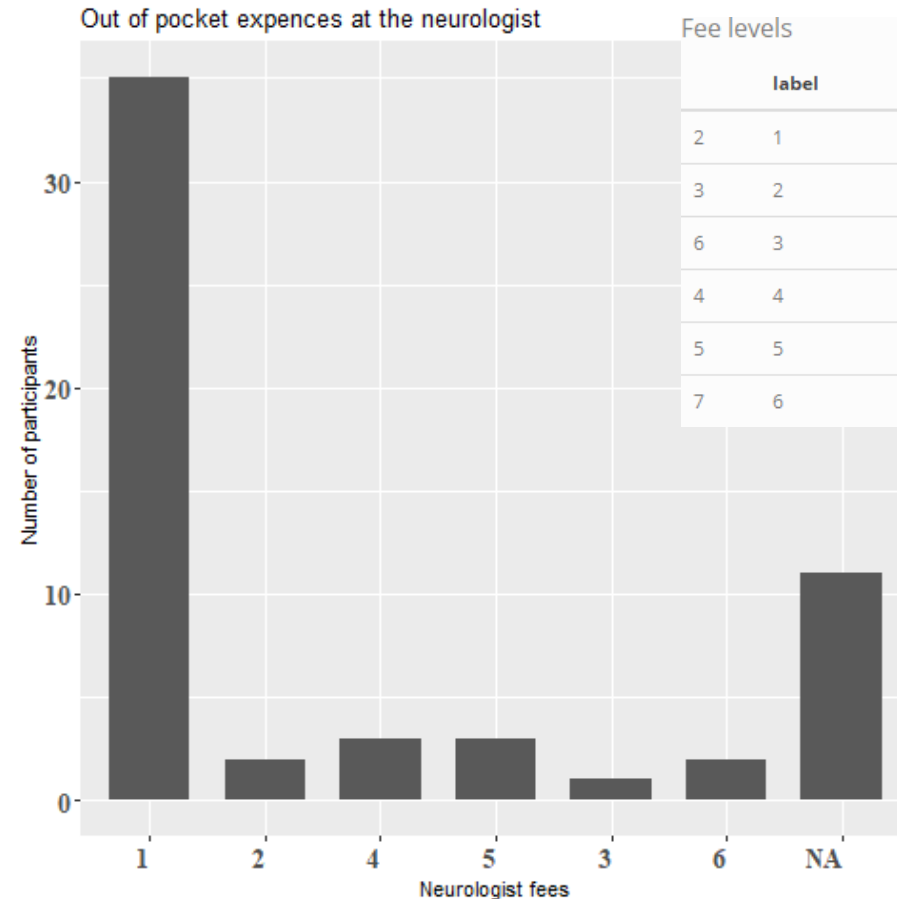
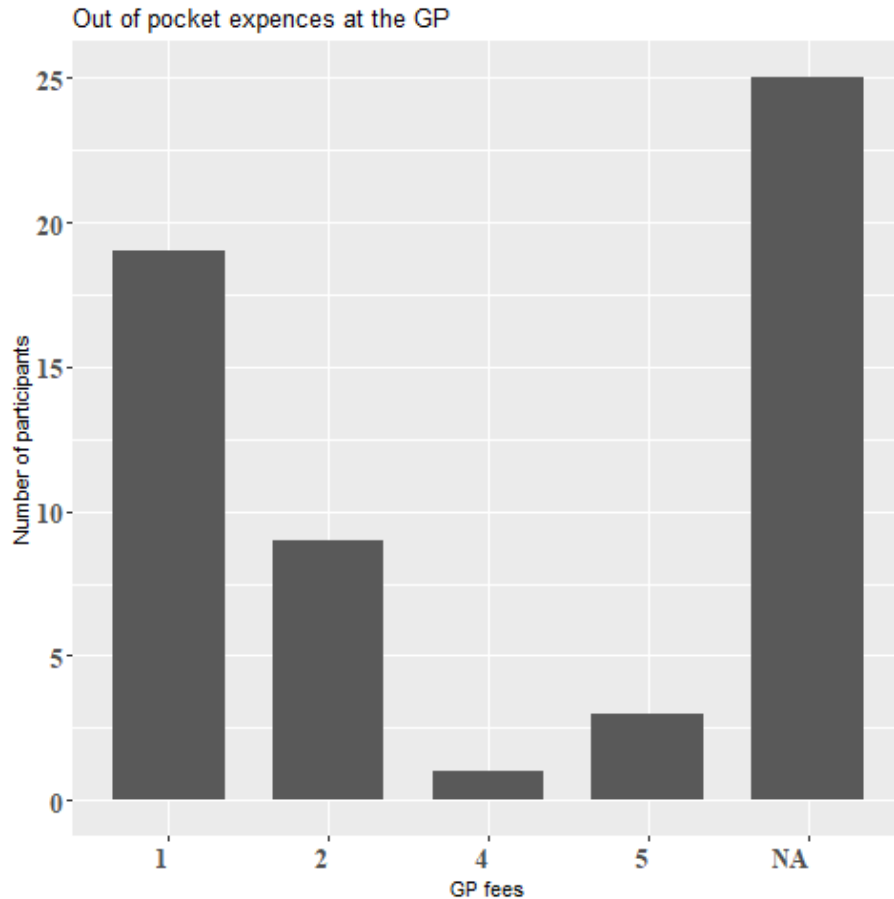
# Most consulted medical professionals

label	response
1	GP
2	Neurologist
3	Ophtalmologist
4	Psychiatrist

For Multiple Sclerosis, patients tend to go more often to the neurologist, more than the general practitioner



# Out-of-pocket expences

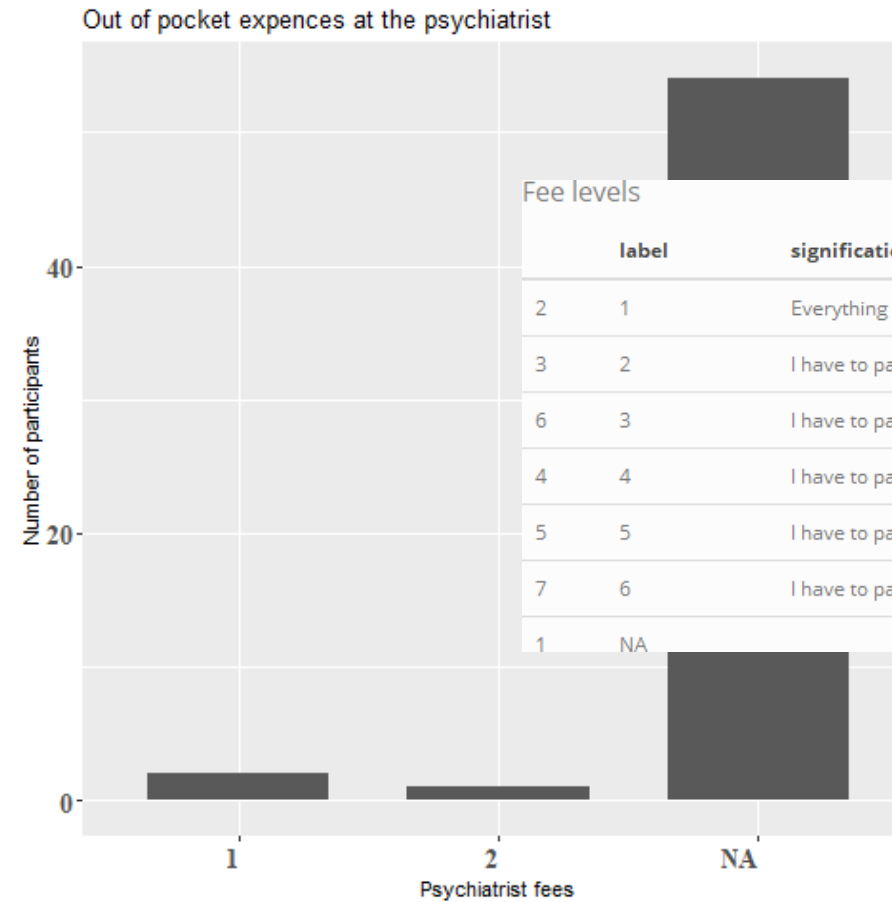
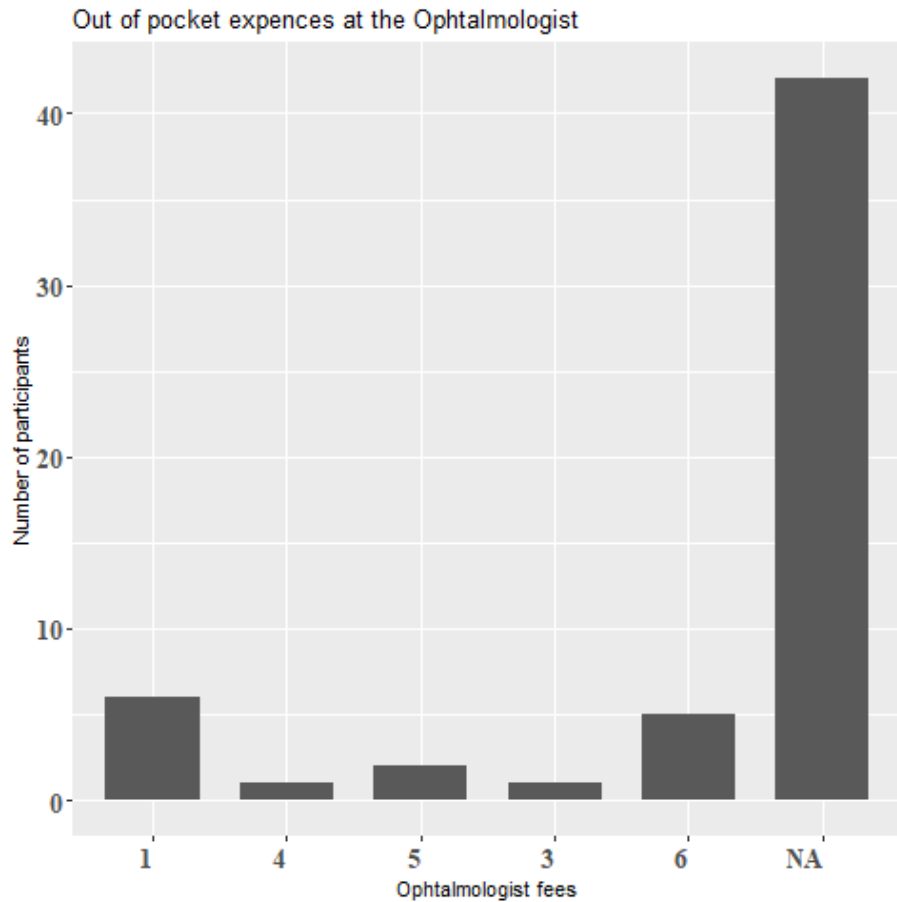


Fee levels

	label	signification
2	1	Everything is taken care of by social security or by my insurance
3	2	I have to pay between 1 and 5 euros
6	3	I have to pay between 5 and 10 euros
4	4	I have to pay between 10 and 20 euros
5	5	I have to pay between 20 and 30 euros
7	6	I have to pay more than 30 euros

For the two most consulted medical specialist, out-of-pocket expences are usually low or absent.

# Out-of-pocket expences



Fee levels

	label	signification
2	1	Everything is taken care of by social security or by my insurance
3	2	I have to pay between 1 and 5 euros
6	3	I have to pay between 5 and 10 euros
4	4	I have to pay between 10 and 20 euros
5	5	I have to pay between 20 and 30 euros
7	6	I have to pay more than 30 euros
1	NA	

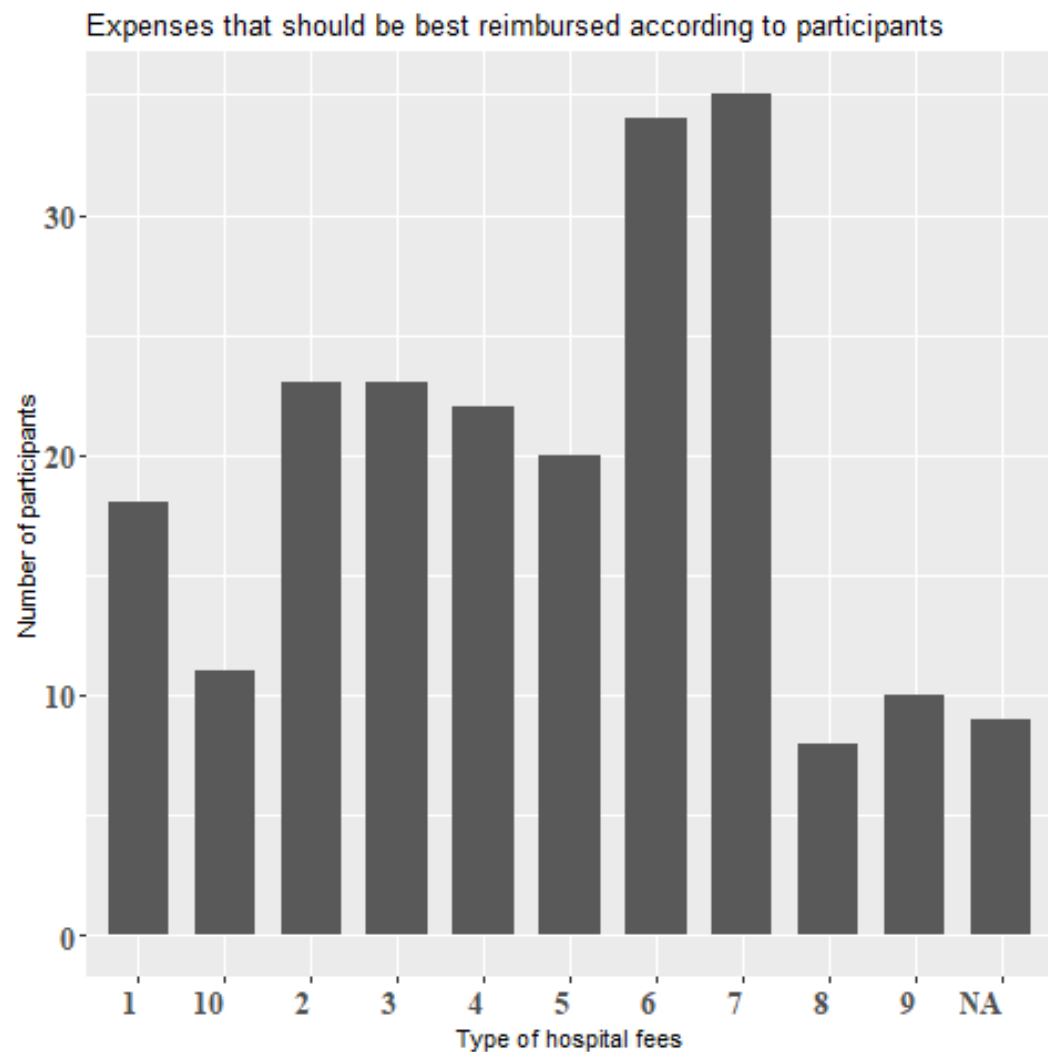
Patients consult less often ophtalmologist and psychiatrists

For a few patients out-of-pocket expences at the ophtalmologist are either absent or high and for the psychiatrist absent or very low

# Reimbursement preferences

label	response
1	Hospital fees
2	Medical appointments
3	Medical exams
4	Specialized hospital care
5	Treatments
6	Home care services
7	Home adjustments
8	Medical material
9	Medical transport
10	No item should be better reimbursed

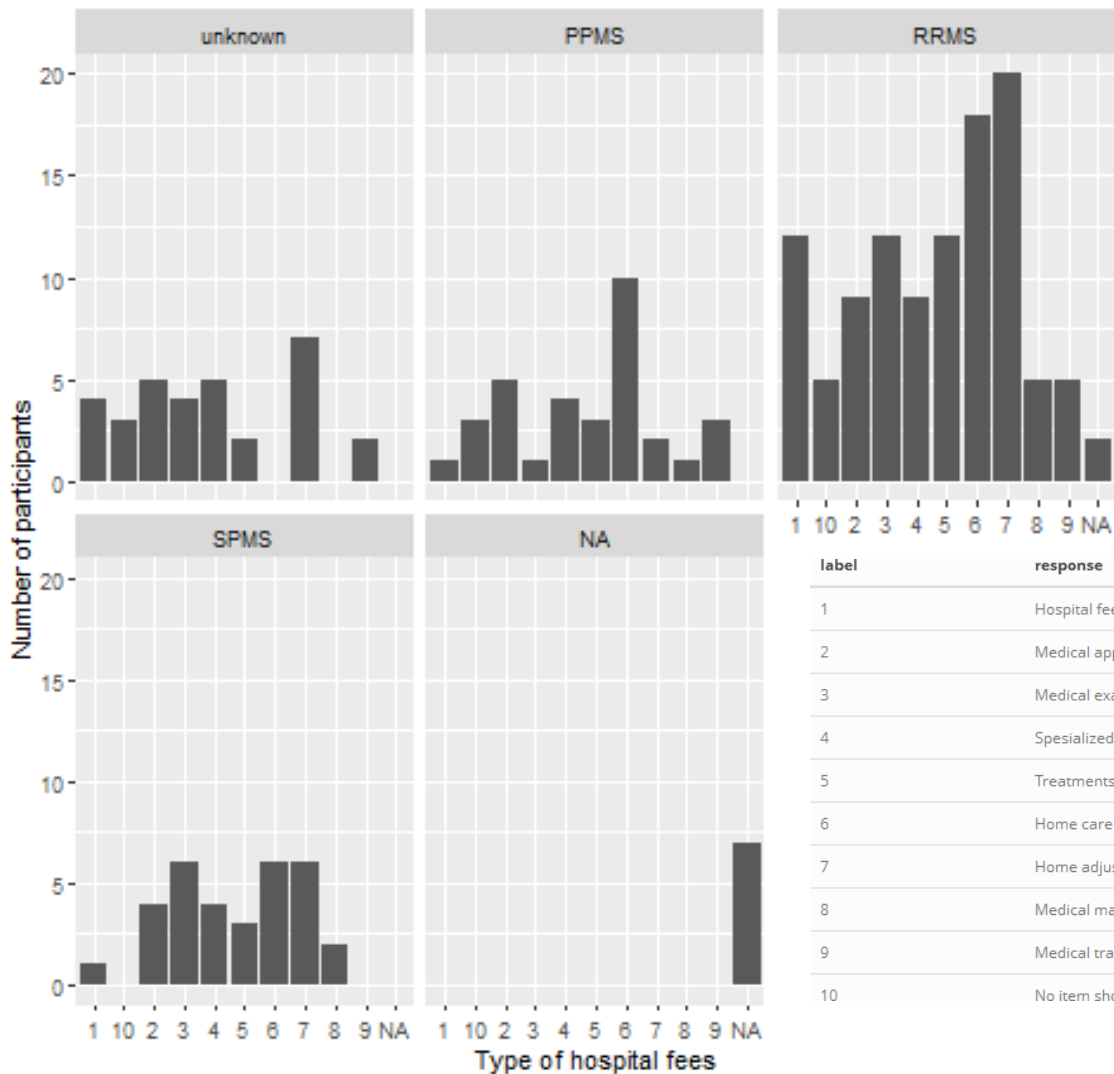
The top pick for the expenses that should be better reimbursed is home adjustments and home care services





# Reimbursement preferences

Expenses that should be best reimbursed according to patients



Type of Multiple Sclerosis	
label	signification
NA	
unknown	I am not sure/don't know
PPMS	PPMS: primary progressive MS. The condition progresses gradually, smoothly and without exacerbations.
RRMS	RRMS: relapsing-remitting MS. This type is characterised by attacks with periods of remission (periods stability). After each attack, the symptoms can disappear completely or partially.
SPMS	SPMS: secondary progressive MS. After having progressed for years (or decades) in a remittent mode characterised by attacks, the attacks become less frequent or disappear, but the symptoms continue to develop.

Here we can see that the demand for home adjustment reimbursement is top priority for the patients with RRMS which is the most difficult form of the disease, home care services reimbursement come as well as a concern in 2nd position for RRMS and 1st for PPMS

label	response
1	Hospital fees
2	Medical appointments
3	Medical exams
4	Specialized hospital care
5	Treatments
6	Home care services
7	Home adjustments
8	Medical material
9	Medical transport
10	No item should be better reimbursed

# Conclusion

- As there is no need to think that out-of-the-pocket expenses are high for the most frequent medical visits, we notice that the demand of patients for better reimbursement in home adjustments and home care services is important
- It might be interesting to better reimburse medical appointments and medical exams in second hand since they are mentioned often in the reimbursement preferences as well.