

# MS Trust Specialist Nurse Programme (SNP): Evaluations and results so far

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## Background and context



Our research shows that 69% of people don't have adequate access to an MS specialist nurse (MSSN). The MS Trust is investing in the areas of greatest need to address this inequality.

Started in 2017, the SNP is based on the belief that everyone in the UK with MS should have access to an MSSN so that no one has to face MS alone.

Through the SNP:

- The MS Trust funds 80% of a permanent MSSN post for 15 months, after which time the employing NHS Commissioner or Centre takes over the cost.
- The MS Trust supports the post holder through accredited training, mentorship, and provides support for the whole MS team in developing the service and collecting data to evaluate impact of the additional MSSN capacity.

So far **Bradford, Lanarkshire** and **Leicester** MS nursing services have completed the SNP, and high level findings are provided below.

## Findings

After 15 months all three sites saw improvements in the value added by new MSSNs, both in terms of quantity and quality of care provided to PwMS.

The additional resource in the MS teams is crucial, but so is the service planning and development which is a key part of the SNP.

✓ An average 20% increase in number of pwMS seen in the last 12 months

✓ Waiting times for an MSSN appointment reduced by 4.5 months

✓ Almost 33% more new referrals seen within 6 weeks of receipt of referral

✓ 456 pwMS previously lost to follow up were re-engaged across two sites during a 12 month period

## Hospital admissions and cost savings within 12 months of the SNP

- ✓ Length of stay (LOS) reduced by an average **2.5** days at each site
- ✓ Avoidable admissions saved an average **£38,000 (£29,964 - £45,929)** at each site
- ✓ Ambulatory services saved an average **£49,444 (48,011 – 50,877)** at each site

**This means a total of 87,444 (£80,841 - £93,940) was saved on average per site**

## Watch this space!

The MS Trust are currently funding and supporting **another four** MSSNs in **University Hospitals Coventry, Hull/North Lincolnshire and Goole, NHS Lothian, and James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough**. Service development and evaluation work is ongoing in these sites and the results will be available mid-2020.

The charity is also working with other potential sites, and at least a further five new MSSNs will be appointed through the SNP in the next 12 months.

**So far, across seven sites, an additional 3,612 people with MS are now being cared for by our nurses**

I feel as if someone has the time to care and also feel happier that there's more chance of having my call answered more quickly

The MS nurses are a brilliant support emotionally



It has made a VAST difference. New MS nurses have helped sort my pain problems too

It's good to talk to someone who understands the problems you encounter with MS and can make suggestions to ease some of the problems