

COVID-19's Impact on Multiple Sclerosis Brands

The current public health pandemic is impacting healthcare stakeholders from doctors and nurses in the frontlines to payers and PBMs. EVERSANA™ is monitoring the constant changes to access and benefit consideration, tracking payer responses and key trends that may impact Multiple Sclerosis (MS) brands.

“We believe that the way the medications work, the duration of action of these medications, and the risks of MS disease activity coming back are all reasons to continue MS therapies without interruption... Given what we know about the current risks of COVID-19, MS therapy interruptions appear more likely to be harmful than helpful.

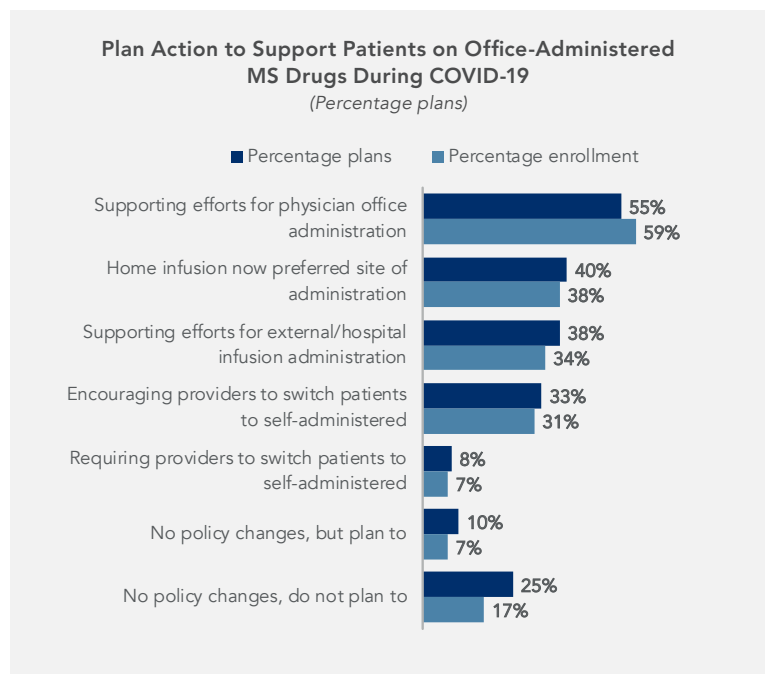
– Health System Pharmacy”

According to a recent research released by Health Strategies Insights by EVERSANA™, while COVID-19 does not present such an acute threat to multiple sclerosis patients as to other patient populations (e.g., asthma, COPD, cardiovascular), it remains an important consideration in certain disease-modifying therapies (DMTs) that can cause immune suppression.

Health plans support treatment of MS patients on office-administered drugs through multiple efforts, taking numerous measures to ensure continuity of care. These measures typically include supporting physicians to provide safe and seamless administration of office-administered therapies within their office by lessening tedious administrative tasks (e.g., prior authorizations, reauthorizations, etc.)

While home administration is a popular option, especially due to the immuno-suppressive nature of office-administered MS therapies, the infrastructure (i.e., qualified staff to administer infusions) is lacking, stunting potential greater growth of this option.

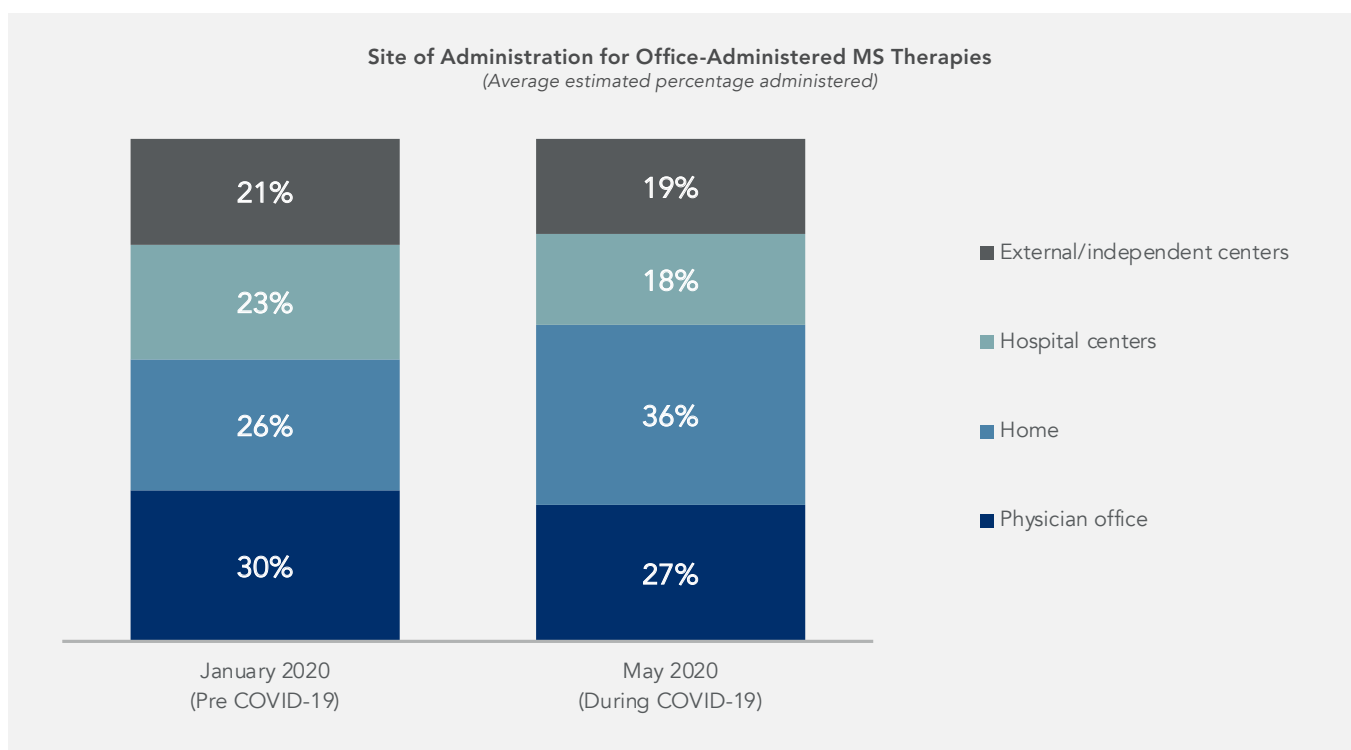
A quarter of plans have not made any changes to office-administered autoimmune drug policies, and do not anticipate doing so, leaving all safety and changes to administration policies in the hands of the providers.



N=40 health plans. Source: Health Strategies Insights by EVERSANA, Multiple Sclerosis Brand Access Marketplace Dynamics, June 2020.

Pharmaceutical companies can strengthen their relationship with payers by supporting health plans' home administration efforts for MS therapies.

Recognizing the risk presented by institution- and office-based infusions, home administration has become an increasingly popular option, despite the health plan infrastructure which is not quite set up to support an even greater shift away from traditional infusion settings. This shift mirrors a similar trend seen in other office-administrated/infused therapy categories such as autoimmune, asthma, and oncology.



To learn more about Health Strategies Insights by EVERSANA™, visit eversana.com/products/health-strategies-insights.



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