

## **Timely Vaccination in MS Patients: Collaboration Between Neurologists, MS Nurses, and Public Health Services (GGD)**

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### **Background:**

Patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) starting immunosuppressive therapies are at increased risk for infections. Immunosuppressive drugs can reduce the effectiveness of vaccines. To protect these patients, timely vaccinations are essential before initiating immunosuppressive treatments. Unfortunately, vaccination timing is not always integrated into therapeutic guidelines, often leading to vaccinations being withheld due to contraindications or reduced vaccine effectiveness. This highlights the need for an optimized approach to ensure timely vaccination prior to immunosuppressive therapy.

### **Methods:**

A collaboration between neurologists, MS nurses, and Public Health (GGD) was implemented to improve vaccination effectiveness in MS patients. Patients are referred by their neurologist to the GGD for medically indicated vaccinations prior to starting immunosuppressive therapy. The GGD assesses the need for additional vaccinations, including travel vaccines, and schedules vaccination appointments. If necessary, treatment start dates are adjusted to ensure adequate time for vaccination. Medically indicated vaccines are covered by the hospital, while travel vaccines are self-paid.

### **Results:**

The protocol led to higher vaccination rates, improved coordination between healthcare providers, and better protection for MS patients, reducing infection risks after therapy initiation.

### **Conclusion:**

This collaboration model may be replicated for other immunosuppressed patient groups to improve infection prevention through timely vaccination.