



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

**YOU CAN ADVOCATE TO
PROTECT ACCESS TO TELEHEALTH**
Create your own WOW-HOW-NOW to help you do it.

WOW: MY IMPACT STATEMENT

Examples:

“I use telehealth for many of my healthcare appointments, including with my primary care doctor and counselor. It’s so helpful for me because it eliminates most of the fatigue caused by preparing for the visit, wait time and travel—and fatigue is one of my most consistent MS symptoms. The pandemic caused us all to learn to embrace telehealth to access care, and it needs to be a permanent part of healthcare moving forward.”

“Living in a rural area, the closest MS specialist is 3 hours away. Can you imagine that? Six hours of driving in a day for a quick 30-minute check-up? Telehealth has eliminated the stress of driving and has allowed me and my family to save our PTO and money.”

HOW: IMPACT ON THE MS COMMUNITY AND POLICY MAKER’S ROLE IN THE SOLUTION

(You do not have to use all of the points below—just pick 1-2 that best support your impact statement.)

- Since 2020, Congress and the Trump and Biden Administrations have significantly increased access to telehealth by waiving restrictions and broadening which services are covered. As a result, many providers and patients have embraced telehealth.
- A potential “telehealth cliff” at the end of 2024 could end the telehealth access that many people on Medicare have come to rely on.
- For people with MS who live with mobility challenges, accessible transportation barriers, geographic barriers, or symptoms such as severe fatigue, telemedicine can offer meaningful access to care for those who may struggle to get it otherwise.
- 94% of MS healthcare providers and 81% of people with MS reported they want to continue using telehealth after the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW: THE ASK FOR POLICY MAKERS

Will you prioritize extension and improvement of access to telehealth, and cosponsor the CONNECT for Health Act (S.2016 /H.R.4189)?