



MS THERAPISTS EDUCATION FUND

Guidelines

Background

Therapists, both specialist and generalist, play a pivotal role in improving the quality of life of people affected by MS. With the current financial constraints within the NHS it is very often difficult for therapists to get financial support to attend education courses. This lack of financial support means that they can be working without the ability to develop their clinical expertise, evidence-based practice and management skills. This fund has been set up with equal investments from Biogen Idec Ltd, Bayer Schering Pharma, Merck Serono Ltd, Teva Pharmaceuticals Ltd, MS Society and MS Trust.

Purpose of the Fund

The purpose of the fund is to enable therapists to best meet the needs of people with MS by expanding their MS knowledge and skills. The fund is aimed primarily at physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and psychologists although applications from other therapists will be considered. Specifically it will enable those who are working in a clinical role with people with MS to attend courses, conferences, study days or masterclasses to develop their clinical expertise and expand their skills base.

Eligibility

All therapists who work with people with MS will be eligible to apply to the fund. Special consideration will be given to those working at a higher level of practice and to those working solely within the speciality of MS.

Rules

- Applicants must submit a request to the fund using the specified grant application form that can be obtained from the MS Trust.
- Up to a maximum of 75% of the cost of a course will be paid by the fund, although the precise percentage will depend on the course. Evidence must be included with the application to show that the NHS or other possible funding sources have been approached before applying to the MS Therapists Education Fund.
- The provider of the balance of costs must be stated in the application.

- Applications will be considered and approved by a steering committee comprising an occupational therapist, a physiotherapist, a representative from the MS Society and a representative from the MS Trust. Decisions will be made 3 times a year and applications should be submitted to comply with the following timetable:

Submission Date	Consideration by Steering Committee	Announcement Date
End of December	End of January	End of February
End of February	End of March	End of April
End July	End August	End September

- The grant will be paid direct to the provider of the educational course.
- Once the grant has been paid, failure to attend the course will result in a requirement to refund the award.
- After the course the candidate will be required to write a report outlining how the course met their learning objectives as specified on the application form.

Please return your application form to:

Nicola Russell
Director of Services
MS Trust
Spirella Building
Bridge Road
Letchworth Garden City
SG6 4ET

Tel : 01462 476700

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