The ABN welcomes all initiatives that improve the standard of care to people with neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis. It is helpful that NICE has published a set of quality standards which are designed to drive measurable improvements in the quality of care to people with multiple sclerosis. The ABN welcomes the emphasis on early access of people who have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis to specialist services. We also agree that people with multiple sclerosis should have a defined single point of contact for on-going multidisciplinary care, with a comprehensive review annually. We recognise that this may well be a challenge for the capacity of some services. We agree that patients experiencing a relapse of multiple sclerosis should be triaged early, to identify whether they might benefit from treatment.

It is disappointing that key issues in the current management of multiple sclerosis are omitted from the NICE document, specifically standards about early diagnosis of multiple sclerosis and access of all patients to centres with expertise in the complex management and monitoring of the increasing number of disease-modifying therapies. The ABN will partner with the MS Trust and MS Society to further develop quality standards around the management of multiple sclerosis, to provide measurable incentives to improve the care of people with multiple sclerosis.