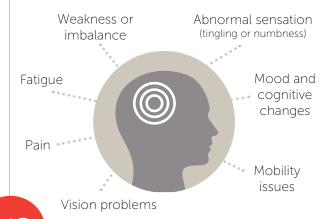
WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is

classified as an autoimmune disease of the central nervous system (CNS). The immune system attacks myelin (protective covering of the nerves) in the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerves, which disrupts communication between the CNS and the rest of the body. The disease course of MS is unpredictable, often occurring in a pattern of relapses and remissions. In some people, the disease will steadily worsen from the onset. There is currently no cure for MS, but treatments are available to manage MS symptoms and decrease the frequency and severity of relapses.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?



WHAT CAUSES MS?

MS causes are not fully understood.



Researchers believe that genetics may play a role, in combination with factors like lifestyle and environment.

Total annual health sector costs for MS are expected to reach \$2-billion by 2031.



WHO IS AFFECTED?



Canada has one of the highest rates of MS in the world.

On average, **12 Canadians** are diagnosed with MS every day.

Over 90,000 Canadians live with MS.

Onset of MS is typically between **ages of 20-49**.







Women are 3x more likely to be diagnosed with MS than men.