

In A Nutshell  
April 2021  
New Kid on the Block

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Ponvory (ponesimod) as an oral treatment for adults with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis. The approval covers clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing-remitting MS (RRMS), and active secondary progressive MS (SPMS). The treatment is taken as a 20 mg tablet, once daily, with or without food.

Ponvory works by modulating sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) signaling. This is believed to “trap” immune cells in lymph nodes, so they cannot get into the nervous system and cause damaging inflammation.

Common side effects of the medication include upper respiratory tract infections, elevated blood pressure, and abnormally high levels of certain liver enzymes.

Because starting treatment with Ponvory can cause a decrease in heart rate, people with certain heart conditions need to be monitored when taking their first dose. People without these pre-existing heart conditions do not require first-dose monitoring, and Ponvory treatment does not require genetic testing.

[Ponvory \(ponesimod\) Approved for Adults With Relapsing Forms of MS \(multiplesclerosisnewstoday.com\)](#)

**Just For Fun:** I have done 5 DMTs, how many have you done? More details on each at this website: [Brochure-The-MS-Disease-Modifying-Medications.pdf \(nationalmssociety.org\)](#)

<u>Injectable</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Mfg</u>
Avonex	1996	Biogen
Betaseron	1993	Bayer
Copaxone	1996	Teva
Extavia	2009	Novartis
Glatopa	2015	Sandoz
Kesimpta	2020	Novartis
Plegridy	2014	Biogen
Rebif	1998	Serono
 <u>Oral</u>		
Aubagio	2012	Sanofi
Bafiertam	2013	Banner Life
Gilenya	2010	Novartis

Oral cont'd

Mavenclad	2019	Serono
Mayzent	2019	Novartis
Tecfidera	2013	Biogen
Vumerity	2013	Biogen
Zeposia	2020	Bristol Myers

Infusions

Lemtrada	2014	Sanofi
Novantron	2000	Generic
Ocrevus	2017	Genentech
Tysabri	2004	Biogen