PEOPLE LIVING WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA DESERVE ACCESS TO TREATMENTS THAT CAN IMPROVE THEIR FUNCTIONING AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Over 21 MILLION people are living with schizophrenia globally.

With effective treatment, symptoms of schizophrenia can be reduced by 60%.

Of people living with schizophrenia:

90% experience a decline in functioning, according to a large Australian survey of 1.5 million people.

1 in 2 patients report that schizophrenia has a ‘very strong impact’ on quality of life.

Functioning verb
1. a persons’ ability to perform normal daily activities and to maintain their independence, their role in society and their overall mental health.

Quality of life adjective
1. the general well-being of a person, including all emotional, social, and physical aspects of their life.

Catching the bus, cooking a meal, or fulfilling a role in society can become huge challenges.

What causes this drop in functioning and quality of life in people living with schizophrenia?

- Poor physical health
- Clinical symptoms of schizophrenia
- Less ability to cope with everyday stress
- Difficulty in thinking clearly
- Lack of social support
- Side effects of medication
- Sedation, weight gain, restlessness, anxiety

Data of preparation: February 2017

This infographic has been developed by H. Lundbeck A/S from published literature as a contribution to the public health debate and is endorsed by the European Brain Council, the European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness, the Global Alliance of Mental Health Illness Advocacy Networks and the World Federation for Mental Health.
PEOPLE LIVING WITH SchizophrenIA DESERVE ACCESS TO TREATMENTS THAT CAN IMPROVE THEIR FUNCTIONING AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Reduced functioning and lower quality of life affects people living with schizophrenia and society as a whole

Treatment associated side effects may mean patients stop taking their medication

Patients who do not take their medication have higher rates of relapse and hospitalisation

Unemployment of people living with schizophrenia is high at 70–90%

Informal caregivers of people living with a mental health problem, such as schizophrenia, spend 22 hours per week caring for their relatives, comparable to a part-time job

One in four caregivers (28%) has difficulties making ends meet

Improved functioning and quality of life are major goals for people living with schizophrenia...

...however the focus of many treatments is on managing symptoms

There could be an opportunity to improve assessment of new treatments by considering functioning and quality of life

Policies and guidelines that could increase access to new treatments are not always implemented due to stigma, lack of awareness, lack of uptake and disparity between national and local mental health legislation

SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

INVLVEn patient and caregiver groups to give patients a voice when developing programmes and assessing new treatments

EDUCATE people living with schizophrenia and their informal caregivers about treatment options, so they can play an active role in decisions that affect them and society at large

SUPPORT access to new treatments that may improve functioning and quality of life, including when these treatments are being assessed

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