

Neurological Nurse Specialists: *A Vital Resource*

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Who are we?



EFNA

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS

Our Members



1. ADVOCACY

2. AWARENESS

3. EMPOWERMENT

4. ENGAGEMENT



Our Strategic
Focus Areas

THE EVIDENCE

Cost of Brain Disorders in Europe 2011

A

At least 1 in 3 of us will experience a brain disorder in our lifetime

Latest figures suggesting closer to 1 in 2!

B

The annual cost of brain disorders to the EU economy is over 800 billion euros per year

C

These figures continue to rise... and for most brain disorders we have no cure nor adequate treatment!

THE EVIDENCE

Global, regional and national burden of neurological disorder 1990-2015: A systematic analysis of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2015

THE LANCET
Neurology

1

Neurological diseases are the largest cause of DALYs in 2015: 250.7 million, equivalent to 10.2% of global DALYs

2

Neurological diseases are the second-largest cause of global deaths: 9.4 million, equivalent to 16.8% of global deaths

3

Between 1990 and 2015, the number of deaths from neurological disorders increased by 36.7%, and the number of DALYs by 7.4%

EAN Factsheet 2019...

Region	Population	Prevalence of neurological diseases	Deaths due to neurological disease	DALYs	Number of neurologists
European Union (EU28)	512,355,000	307,859,199	1,116,038	21,046,899	48,266
Western Europe	432,969,000	260,827,756	892,162	16,499,342	33,945
Central Europe	114,803,000	67,368,506	300,317	6,024,036	15,598
Eastern Europe	210,199,000	130,372,328	604,144	13,110,119	29,233
WHO Region Europe	925,631,000	542,935,521	1,981,463	413,199,38	86 977 ²

So can the specialist nurse fill the gaps?

The UK National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommends that for a population of 500 000 people, at least three multiple sclerosis (MS) nurses, three Parkinson's disease (PD) nurses, and nine epilepsy nurses should be available.

Cuts to these services in the interests of a short-term budgetary fix would be detrimental to the care of patients and could in fact be a false economy.

Some (old) stats from the UK to prove an economic point...

- In one primary care trust, a PD nurse reduced patients' length of stay and reduced admissions, delivering a saving of £80 000.
- The UK Multiple Sclerosis Society reports that its funded MS nurses save NHS trusts £60 000 a year per trust by treating patients with symptoms of MS at home.
- The NHS National Workforce Project showed that patients who consulted an epilepsy nurse specialist in addition to their neurologist were less likely to seek additional consultations with a general practitioner (GP) or clinic doctor than those who did not, resulting in an annual saving of £184 per patient

But do patients agree?

Excerpt from EFNA position paper on access

There is a need for more specialised neurologists and support workers, although it is not only the neurologist who is important, and the training of the broader healthcare workforce is necessary to optimise access to care.

Given the nature of neurological disorders, with a complex web of symptoms and, in many cases, co-morbidities; multidisciplinary care teams should be created to ensure a holistic approach to neurological care. This may include the neurologist, psychologist, rehabilitation/occupational therapist, specialist nurse, etc.

What do we think specialist nurses can do?

- An more accessible source of advice between neurologist visits – reassurance, improved adherence, lowering admissions, etc.
- A more at ease environment in which to talk about secondary symptoms or other QoL issues
- More involvement and recognition of the caregiver
- Lessening need to appointments with neurologists – keeping waiting lists down
- A healthcare professional closer to home
- A positive blurring of lines between health and social care
-

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European level



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AND RESEARCH IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS



Does everyone else agree?

Ideas for EU level action...

- A business case?
- A policy brief?
- An awareness campaign?
- A coalition?

Thank you for
listening!

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