

MS Nurse PROfessional

The first and only European
accredited MS nurse training curriculum



A Project of the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform



www.msnursepro.org



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MS Nurse PROfessional – Breaking new ground in MS nurse education

While a wide multi-disciplinary team has a significant effect on treatment, care and support for people with multiple sclerosis (MS), the MS nurse remains the constant, central key worker for coordinated care and support. MS nurses are accessible to their patients and, as a result of regular interaction, readily establish an ongoing therapeutic relationship. MS nurses can offer support at times of difficulty and promote independence and self-care.¹

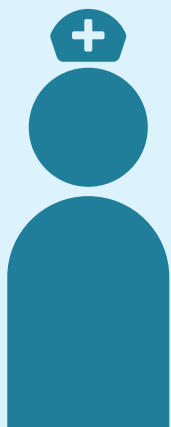
In recent years there has been a steady increase in the number of MS nurses in Europe although MS nursing practice remains unique to individual countries and is influenced by a range of variables.

Despite the increase of such posts, the term 'MS nurse' has historically been applied inconsistently, as have the education, training and skill level required to support the role. This can lead to a lack of clarity about the scope and competency required of an MS nurse, a lack of parity between similar roles in different countries and inconsistent outcomes of care.^{2,3}

To address the inconsistency, the European MS Platform (EMSP - the umbrella organisation for 40 member societies in 35 European countries) in collaboration with the European Rehabilitation in MS (RIMS) centres network and the International Organization of Multiple Sclerosis Nurses (IOMSN) joined together to form an international steering committee and undertake a number of activities within the European MS nursing landscape. One of these was the development of MS Nurse PROfessional.

MS Nurse PROfessional

An online foundation level resource providing a modular training curriculum to support the evolving role of European MS nurses. This educational programme is targeted at MS nurses starting their professional careers as well as those healthcare professionals with a caseload of MS patients and/or an interest in MS. Currently available in **eight languages** (English, Spanish, Czech, Italian, German, Polish, French and Dutch), the programme has been approved by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) for the award of International Continuing Nursing Education Credits (ICNECs) and is endorsed by leading national and international patient and professional groups.



"It is hoped that MS Nurse PROfessional and its accompanying consensus paper are the first step toward the unification and recognition of the MS nurse population throughout Europe. By ensuring that MS nurses are skilled and educated to respond to the changing treatment landscape, we can ultimately improve the safety and consistency of care provided to those affected by MS."

Anne Winslow, President of the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform

References

1. Ward-Abel N, Mutch K and Huseyin H. Demonstrating that multiple sclerosis specialist nurses make a difference to patient care. *Br J Neurosci Nurs* 2010;6:319-324.
2. Corry M, McKenna M and Duggan M. The role of the clinical nurse specialist in MS: a literature review. *Br J Nurs* 2011;20:86-93.
3. Forbes A, While A, Dyson L, Grocott T and Griffiths P. Impact of clinical nurse specialists in multiple sclerosis - synthesis of the evidence. *J Adv Nurs* 2003;42:442-462.
4. Hartung HP. Disparities in nursing of multiple sclerosis patients - results of a European nurse survey. *Eur Neurol Rev* 2011;6:106-109.

How does MS Nurse PROfessional work?

Online course setting a benchmark for MS nursing practice and nursing care across Europe



There are five distinct modules available. The modular curriculum focuses on core competencies of MS nurses including advocacy, health education, symptom and treatment management



Understanding MS



Clinical Presentation



Diagnosis and Assessment



Treatment



Care and Support



Rehabilitation

Currently available in EIGHT languages



MS Nurse PROfessional is a widely endorsed and accredited programme both at a local and European level

Programme includes an online accreditation test of which a pass mark of 75% or more must be obtained to be eligible for the certificate of credit



Multiple sclerosis: the facts

MS is a complex, chronic, progressive and disabling condition of the brain and central nervous system

UP TO 2.5 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE ARE AFFECTED BY MS¹
MS IS MORE COMMON IN WOMEN THAN MEN²



COMMON SYMPTOMS³



Fatigue



Spasticity



Incontinence



Numbness



Chronic pain



Difficulty walking



Sexual problems



Depression

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF MS?

MS is characterised by relapses (an immediate worsening of neurological function, either physical or mental, that lasts for more than 24 hours), which present in different patterns and result in progressive accumulation of disability.

References

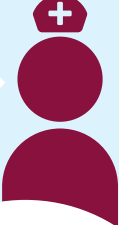
1. EMSP data on file.
2. National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Who gets MS? (Epidemiology) Available at: <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/What-is-MS/Who-Gets-MS> [Accessed December 2015].
3. National Multiple Sclerosis Society. MS Symptoms. Available at: <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/Symptoms-Diagnosis/MS-Symptoms> [Accessed December 2015].

The achievements of MS Nurse PROfessional and looking to the future


By focusing on MS nursing activities including evaluating, educating, monitoring and supporting the person with MS and their family, the aim of MS Nurse PROfessional is to deliver education at a foundational level to those aspiring to a future MS specialist post. In addition the programme provides knowledge and skills in MS care to those outside of the specialist role who may be leaning towards expanding their knowledge.

Since its launch in 2013, the programme has been met with great enthusiasm and in January 2016 there were 2,859 registered nurse users across 45 countries, with 958 nurses who have completed the course in its entirety.


FEEDBACK FROM REGISTERED USERS:



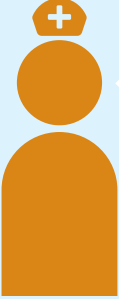
“MS Nurse PROfessional has given me a better understanding of MS which will allow me to better care for my patients”



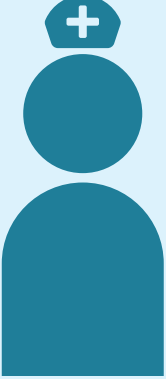
“The training enhances the role of the MS nurse inside the multidisciplinary team”



“The training has given me increased confidence to answer patients questions rather than referring them to colleagues”



“Improving patients’ and families’ understanding of a difficult disease ensures patients do not walk alone on this journey”



“Specialist nurses offer unparalleled high-quality care and support for people with MS and their families. MS Nurse PROfessional is a vital step towards unification and recognition of the MS Nurse role throughout Europe and we have already seen the positive impact it is having on patients and families alike”

**Vicki Matthews, Rehabilitation in MS (RIMS) Committee Member,
MS Trust Representative & MS Nurse PROfessional
Steering Committee Member**

Future activity for the programme includes continuation of the roll-out across Europe, with external interest outside Europe being explored. Plan to develop an evolving group of European MS nurse champions is also being explored, with an aspiration to create the legacy of a federation, or network, for European MS nursing that aligns with the global MS specialist nursing community.

By ensuring that MS nurses are skilled and educated to respond to the changing treatment landscape, they can work with the wider multi-disciplinary team to address complex educational needs and risks associated with therapies, and provide people with MS information about their condition. Ultimately, improving the safety and consistency of care provided to those affected by MS.

References

1. Hartung HP. Disparities in nursing of multiple sclerosis patients - results of a European nurse survey. *Eur Neurol Rev* 2011;6:106-109.

Register for MS Nurse PROfessional today

There are five modules that form MS Nurse PROfessional. Although it is recommended that the modules are taken in sequence, modules can be taken in any order you wish and each module may be paused and resumed at any stage.

At the end of each module, you are required to take an online test for which you will need to obtain a pass mark of 75% or more in order to be eligible for the certificate of credit. Each accreditation test must be completed in one sitting and therefore the pause and resume function is not available at this point.

Upon successful completion of all five post-tests you will be provided with a statement of credit which you can download, save and print.

Should your score be below 75% then you will be allowed two attempts to achieve the pass mark for each module test – should you fail both attempts, there will be a period of time that you are unable to retake the test – this will allow time for further study of the module.



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