

Editorial

Nursing Stroke Patients in Greece in Austerity Times

Dimitrios Theofanidis, BSc, PGDip(Ed), MSc, PhD

Clinical Lecturer, Nursing Department, Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, Greece

Correspondence: Dr Theofanidis Dimitrios, Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, Sindos, 54100, Thessaloniki, Greece e-mail: dimitrisnoni@yahoo.gr

Abstract

One of the most demanding roles in nursing is that of the stroke specialist. Yet in Greece the average nurse often has to cope with these complex patient cases without the specialist expertise. A resume of the most recent essential evidence-based nursing interventions for stroke is provided as a means to empower both the specialist and non-specialist nurse. Discussion points include the extended role of the stroke nurse, present shortcomings, and the serious threat to our health care system due to prolonged austerity measures. Overall, it is vital that nurses in Greece retain a good grasp of the essential nursing skills required to deal confidently and effectively with stroke patients and families. This would ensure that the current financial crisis has not turned into a humanitarian one.

Key words: Stroke, nursing, austerity