

# The Importance of Educational Access for MS Nurses: Integrating Knowledge & Skills

## MS Nurse PROfessional

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# Value of the MS Nurse

“The **complex, unpredictable nature of MS** necessitates input from a **range** of health and social care professionals. Although these individuals may affect the experiences of people with MS, the **MS nurse** remains **the central key worker** responsible for coordinated care and support. Thus it is essential that they receive **ongoing education** and are appropriately **skilled** to work effectively with all members of the **multidisciplinary team.**”

- Moving towards the pan-European unification of Multiple Sclerosis Nurses: A consensus paper. *MSJ* Oct 2013



# Need for Unification

Given inconsistencies in MS nursing across Europe, and the many advantage provided by MS nurses, there was an urgent need for pan-European unification of MS nursing supported by a modular educational programme to increase quality of care for people with MS and their families

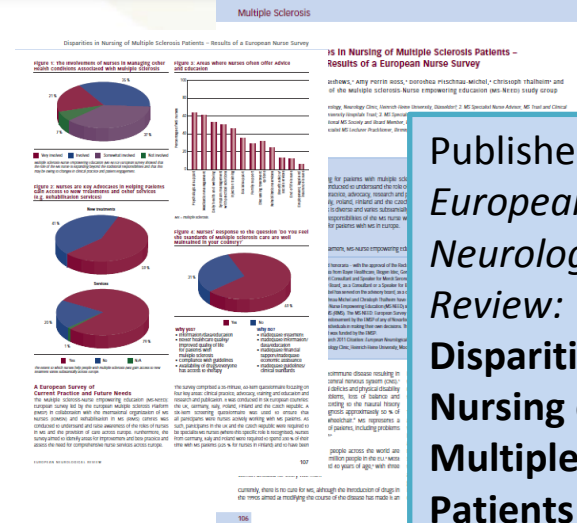
**Setting the Standard –**  
**MS-NEED Survey**  
**MS Nurse Consensus Paper**

**DIRECTLY ADDRESSES  
THE EU PROFESSIONAL  
QUALIFICATIONS  
DIRECTIVE (2005/36/EC)**

**First and Only European CME Accredited  
MS Nurse Training Curriculum –**  
**MS Nurse PROfessional**

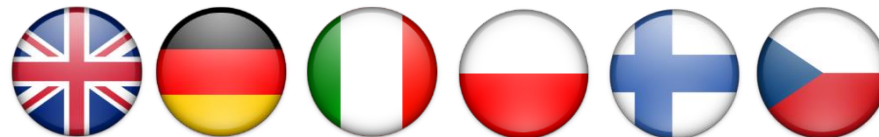
# The MS-NEED European Survey

- **Multiple Sclerosis – Nurse Empowering EDucation (MS-NEED)**
- The first major European-wide survey of nurses involved in the care of MS launched in 2010
- **280 MS nurses were polled in total for the survey**



Published in the  
*European  
Neurological  
Review:*  
**Disparities in  
Nursing of  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Patients – Results  
of a European  
Nurse Survey**

## Countries



## Respondent Type

MS Specialist nurses / nurses seeing people with MS

## Data Collection Method

## CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing)

# MS-NEED: Results

A third of nurses felt that **standards are not well maintained** in their country

Almost a quarter (21%) felt that there **was not enough training and education** to support them in their day-to-day role in MS

**The role is expanding** as MS nurses are:

- Managing other health conditions associated with MS – 21% very involved, 35% involved
- Helping PwMS gain access to new treatments – 59%
- Helping PwMS gain access to other services e.g. rehabilitation services – 79%

**The role is changing** with over 60% of MS nurses providing psychological support and medication management

Challenging the current perception within the MDT with 21% of nurses **moving towards a leadership role**

# MS-NEED: Learnings

**Role of  
MS nurses  
is evolving  
and expanding**

- Recognise MS nursing as a specialty across Europe

**Best practice  
sharing can  
enhance MS  
nurses role  
within the MDT**

- Need for shared MS nursing educational events/opportunities/resources across Europe in range of settings that include web technology & social media
- Ensure there is a structured, formalised and improved partnership working within current European forums and international organisations

**Tools  
and education  
are needed**

- Need for a stepwise professional development structure against an agreed European definition for MS nursing

# Consensus Paper: a call to action

Consensus paper highlighting results of MS-NEED survey: **"Moving towards the pan-European unification of Multiple Sclerosis Nurses: a consensus paper"** was published in the *Multiple Sclerosis Journal* in 2013

## MS Care in Europe

- Overview of current care practices based on findings from MS-NEED Survey

## Making a Difference – The MS Nurse

- Articulation of the MS nurse key roles/responsibilities and competencies

## The Case for MS Nurses

- Benefits of the MS nurse to key stakeholders including people with MS and healthcare professionals

## A Call to Action – Where Next?

- Recommendations for moving forward, unifying MS nurses across Europe and sharing best practice

Available in 8 languages



# The First and Only European CME Accredited MS Nurse Training Curriculum – MS Nurse PROfessional

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# What is MS Nurse PROfessional?

A foundation course, currently available in six languages – English, Spanish, German, Czech, Polish and Italian

A modular, online training curriculum to support the evolving role of European MS nurses

Focused on core competency of MS nurses including advocacy/brokerage, health education, symptom and treatment management

Setting a benchmark for MS nursing practice and nursing care across Europe

# Syllabus Committee



**Vicki Matthews (Chair)**  
RIMS, UK



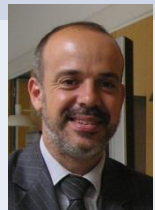
**Wolfgang Köhler, MD**  
DMSG, Germany



**Nicki Abel**  
IOMSN, UK



**Eija Luoto**  
RIMS, Finland



**Jaume Sastre-Garriga, MD**  
CEM-CAT, Spain



**Roberta Motta**  
IOMSN, Italy



**Kitty Harrison**  
MS Nurse, Netherlands



**Amy Perrin Ross**  
IOMSN, US

# www.msnursepro.org



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Change Language

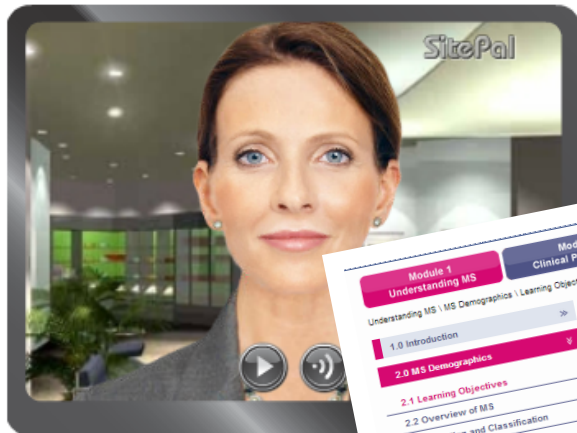


[Home](#) [Mission Statement](#) [Committee](#) [Accreditation](#) [My Action Plan](#) [Endors](#)

Online accreditation test available for each module. Pass mark of 75% or more must be obtained for each module to obtain certificate of credit

## Welcome to MS Nurse Professional

### Introducing our Modules



Please listen to/read this short introduction CME-accredited training curriculum on some tips and assistance to help you get started.



Module 1  
Understanding MS



Module 4  
Treatment



Module 2  
Clinical Presentation



Module 5  
Care and Support



Module 3  
Diagnosis and Assessment

5 distinct modules. Each module is made up of a series of subtopics with fully referenced text

You must first register your details on the website before you can access the modules. Please click on the "Register" button and follow the instructions.

EUROPEAN  
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS  
PLATFORM

RIMS  
RESEARCH INITIATIVE FOR  
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS  
A European network for key persons and research

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INTERNATIONAL  
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OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS  
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# www.msnursepro.org

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**Module 1**  
Understanding MS

**Module 2**  
Clinical Presentation

**Module 3**  
Diagnosis and Assessment

**Module 4**  
Treatment

**Module 5**  
Care and Support

Understanding MS | Understanding the Causes of MS | Nervous System Structure

[<< Previous Section](#) [Next Section >>](#)

1.0 Introduction

2.0 MS Demographics

**3.0 Understanding the Causes of MS**

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Recommended Reading

3.3 Learning Objectives

**3.4 Nervous System Structure**

3.4.1 Spinal Cord

3.4.2 Summary

3.5 Immune

What is Multiple Sclerosis

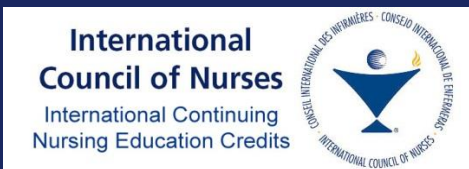
Illustrations, graphics and video clips assist the learning experience

Icons help learners navigate their way through the module

Flashing icons are interactive icons – click on these icons for extra information

# Widely accredited and endorsed

## Accreditations



## Endorsements



EUROPEAN  
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS  
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# Available in 6 languages

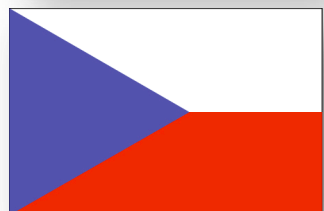
**September 2015 : Local launches held in seven countries**



**UK launch  
March 2013**



**Spanish  
launch  
May 2013**



**Czech Rep  
launch  
June 2013**



**Ireland launch  
Nov 2013**



**Italy launch  
Nov 2013**



**Germany  
launch  
Jan 2015**



**Poland launch  
June 2015**



# MS Nurse PROfessional: Impact and Reach

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# Vital Statistics – Programme Users

**2,651** total registered users across **30** different countries



*For the period March 2013 – September 2015*



# Vital Statistics



**843 users have completed  
the course**

**423,574  
page views**

**Average visit duration of  
13 minutes – which  
supports bite-size  
learning**



**19,385 unique visitors**

# Module Completion Feedback

"Fabulous course, thank you so much"



Module 1  
Understanding MS

"Well written, interesting course that can be referred to in order to refresh knowledge as required"



Module 2  
Clinical Presentation



Module 3  
Diagnosis and Assessment



Module 4  
Treatment



Module 5  
Care and Support

"Overall I have found this course very informative and interesting and will be encouraging my colleagues to participate to allow changes in my workplace"

"I have found this module very interesting and informative and thought provoking. I am looking forward to the following modules"

"I think this is a fantastic resource and way of learning. I wish it was available for many other specialties e.g. Rheumatology/Renal"

"I am thoroughly enjoying this course/ modules and feel that it is very useful in relation to my workplace"

# Changing Clinical Practice

**A benchmarking survey is carried out 6 months following course completion to measure impact on practice**

## **Personal Development & Team Work**

- **83%** of those surveyed have changed the way they practice as a result of MS Nurse *PROfessional*



**“I feel more CONFIDENT that I have knowledge and this has been validated. It is also a good reference tool”**

**“Working in the community and working alone there is little support as you are not part of a team. Is a good REFERENCE GUIDE ”**

**“I have learnt things I didn’t know because sometimes there is little communication amongst colleagues”**

# Changing Clinical Practice

## Patient Experience

- **82%** of those surveyed said the change of practice as a result of MS Nurse *PROfessional* has improved patient/family care



**“The programme has resulted in improved my COMMUNICATION with patients”**

**“It has lead to BETTER HANDLING of MS symptoms and thereby improving quality of life”**

**“I have gained a better handle on the INFORMATION I give patients and families”**

# MS Nurse PROfessional: Looking to the Future

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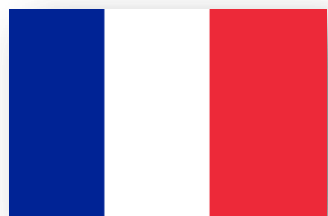
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# Extending the Reach of MS Nurse PRO

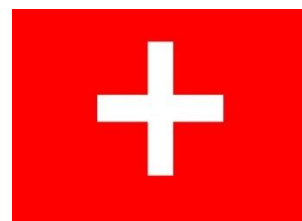
## National launches planned in the near future



**Belgium launch  
2015**



**France launch  
2015**



**Switzerland launch  
2016**



**The Netherlands  
launch  
2016**



**Austria launch  
2016**

**There will be continued dissemination of the programme and the consensus paper at congresses and local nurse events across Europe**

# Content Refreshment

- There is an on-going review of MS Nurse *PROfessional* educational modules to ensure the content is up-to-date and accurate
- The benchmarking survey, started in 2014, will help to support the on-going evaluation of MS Nurse *PROfessional* so the content meets the needs of its users



# Rehabilitation in MS Module 6

- A new module in MS Rehabilitation that has relevance to therapists and nurses. Key group of experts from RIMS (Rehabilitation in Multiple Sclerosis) will collaborate to prepare a review of content for a further module that considers the principles and practice of pre/rehabilitation and enablement for PwMS





# Networking and Unification of MS Nurses

- Looking to develop an **evolving group of European MS nurse champions to create a network for European MS nursing** that aligns with the global MS specialist nursing community
- A consultant is currently assessing how an MS Nurse Federation could work and what it would achieve



# Thank you and over to you ...



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Visit: [www.msnursepro.org](http://www.msnursepro.org)