



# Stroke Nursing Minimum Data Set

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## Background

In Italy stroke is the third leading cause of death, following cardiovascular disease and cancer, and the main cause of adult disability. All members of an interprofessional stroke team play a pivotal role in the assessment and management of stroke patients throughout the continuum from prevention through acute care, rehabilitation, long-term care and return to the community (Green et al., 2011). In hospitals, nurses, who are available on a 24 hour basis, are in a prime position to undertake an initial assessment and initiate interventions on patients (Hines et al., 2016); because of it, they are able to manage unexpected changes in clinical condition and prevent complications.

Over the past decade, an exciting area of research, that demonstrates strong links between specific nursing care activities and patients outcomes, has emerged. This body of research has resulted in the identification of a set of Nursing Sensitive Outcomes (NSOs). A NSO is a behaviour, condition, or a measurable perception of the patient or his family that is achieved through or is significantly influenced by nursing care (Milani et al., 2013). Nursing data must show therefore the quality and results of this care. The Nursing Minimum Data Set (NMDS) was created to collect uniform standardised data that could be comparable among different nursing contexts or patients.

## Aim

The main aim of this study is to define a tool, based on the most representative NSOs in stroke patients, to support the nursing clinical reasoning and to make clear the nursing process; the secondary aim of this study is to test the feasibility of Stroke NMDS, compared to the nursing records used in our unit.

## Methods

We worked to identify a set of the most frequent and common stroke patient outcomes, which are current in literature and in clinical experience. We collected the results in ten categories; we shared and discussed the results with the stroke nursing team during focus group from September 2017 to December 2017.

### Stroke NMDS

Neurological status  
Vital signs and pain  
IV intake and electrolyte imbalance  
Dysphagia and aspiration risk  
ADL and functional status  
Nutritional condition  
Gastro-intestinal and urinary function  
Skin and intravascular catheters  
Safety  
Self care and compliance

Table 1. Categories of Stroke Nursing Sensitive Outcomes.