

MAPPING THE COMPETENCIES OF NURSES IN ITALIAN HEMOPHILIA CENTRES (HCS): CURRENT STATUS AND PERSPECTIVES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF NURSE-SENSITIVE OUTCOMES

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Background and Aims. Congenital Bleeding Disorders (CBDs) require a multidisciplinary approach in which nurses play a key role in patients' clinical, educational, and organizational management. Despite significant therapeutic and healthcare advances in haemophilia care, scientific evidence regarding specialist nursing competencies and nurse-sensitive outcomes remains limited. The AICE Nursing Working Group analysed the current nursing organisation within Italian HCs by investigating nursing skills and activities.

Materials and Methods. In 2024, the AICE Nursing Working Group distributed a national survey to the directors of Italian HCs. The questionnaire collected data on centre organisation, the presence (or absence) of dedicated nurses, training pathways, professional experience, and the main nursing activities performed.

Results. Thirty centres throughout Italy responded to the survey: 17 HCs (56.7%) cared for patients of all ages, 7 (23.3%) mainly adults, and 4 (13.3%) mainly children; data were missing for two centres. Twenty-one HCs (70%) reported nurses simultaneously caring for other patient groups during the same shift, while 3 (10%) reported the presence of nurses exclusively dedicated to CBDs. In 14 HCs (46.7%), nurses were not subject to periodic rotation, contributing to

greater continuity of care. In terms of professional experience, 10 HCs (33.3%) reported nursing experience of 5–15 years, while six (20%) reported experience exceeding 15 years. Nursing activities were broad and multidisciplinary: 13 HCs (43.3%) reported nurse involvement in appointment scheduling and agenda management; 12 (40%) in the administrative management of clinical documentation and healthcare-related telephone support; 18 (60%) in monitoring pharmaceutical stock; and 18 (60%) in providing education to patients and caregivers. Collaboration with hospital pharmacies was reported in 16 centres (53.3%). Regarding training pathways, competencies were acquired primarily "on the job" in 15 HCs (50%); only 2 (6.7%) reported exclusively specialist training dedicated to CBDs, while 9 (30%) combined both approaches. In 15 HCs (50%), a specific training programme was available for newly recruited staff. Participation in internal educational courses dedicated to CBDs was reported in 14 HCs (46.7%), and the same proportion reported participation in specialised external courses.

Conclusions. Nurses play a fundamental role within the multidisciplinary teams of Italian HCs. This survey confirms their strategic importance and highlights the need to define specific competencies, dedicated educational pathways, and measurable nurse-sensitive outcomes.



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Table 1. National survey conducted in Italian Haemophilia Centres

	No. of HCs (%)		
	< 5 nurses: 18 (60%)	5-10 nurses: 5 (16.7%)	> 15 nurses: 1 (3.3%)
Total No. of nurses involved in HC activities (including occasional staff)			
No. of nurses dedicated to the HC	1 nurse: 3 (10%)	2 nurses: 5 (16.7%)	3 nurses: 1 (3.3%)
Is there a planned periodic rotation of nurses assigned to the HC?	No: 14 (46.7%)	Yes: 8 (26.7%)	Occasionally: 4 (13.3%)
Years of experience in HC activities	< 5 Years: 3 (10%)	5-15 Years: 10 (33.3%)	> 15 Years: 6 (20%)
Activities carried out by HC nurses	Appointment scheduling and agenda management		13 (43.3%)
	Management of clinical documentation and healthcare-related telephone support		12 (40%)
	Monitoring pharmaceutical stock		18 (60%)
	Patient and caregiver education		18 (60%)
	Coordination with the hospital pharmacy		16 (53.3%)
Nurse Training and Education	Competencies acquired "on the job": 15 (50%)	Specific training on CBDs: 2 (6.7%)	Both: 9 (30%)
	Participation in in-house training courses: 14 (46.7%)		
	Participation in specialised external courses: 14 (46.7%)		
	Specialised training for new employees: 15 (50%)		

HCs: Haemophilia Centres; CBDs: Congenital Bleeding Disorders