

Top 10 research priorities relating to stroke nursing

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Published in:
International Journal of Stroke

DOI:
[10.1111/ijvs.12601](https://doi.org/10.1111/ijvs.12601)

Publication date:
2015

Document Version
Author accepted manuscript

[Link to publication in ResearchOnline](#)

Citation for published version (Harvard):

Pollock, A, St. George, B & Rowat, A 2015, 'Top 10 research priorities relating to stroke nursing', *International Journal of Stroke*, vol. 10, no. A100, pp. 164. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijvs.12601>

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TITLE: Top Ten research priorities relating to stroke nursing

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Key words: stroke, nursing, prioritization, research priority

Word count: 223 (main text only)(496 including text, table, references, acknowledgements)

Conflicts of interest: none declared

Top ten research priorities relating to stroke nursing

Dear Editor

In April 2014 you published the top ten priorities relating to life after stroke (1) and encouraged your readers to think more broadly about stroke research priorities (2). This research prioritisation project established 226 unique unanswered research questions, through stakeholder involvement, before completing (i) an interim prioritisation stage and (ii) a final consensus meeting to reach agreement on the shared top ten research priorities. We have now repeated these two stages, using the 226 previously identified questions, in order to identify the priorities which stroke nurses consider to be of greatest importance for *nurse-led* stroke research.

Ninety-seven nurses, working in stroke care in Scotland, participated in the interim prioritisation stage, leading to the identification of 28 shared top priorities. At a final consensus meeting 27 purposively selected nurses agreed their Top Ten priorities for stroke nursing research (see Table).

It is important to build research capability and capacity of stroke nurses, and supporting meaningful and useful nurse-led research is a key way of achieving this (3). The previously published top ten research priorities do not afford direction to any one professional group. We have now defined the research agenda for stroke nursing, adopting a pragmatic and efficient approach, which built on the previously-completed prioritisation project (1). We urge nurses and nursing-oriented research organisations to establish collaborative activities to address these priorities.

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(last accessed 29th April 2015)

Number	Research priorities relating to stroke nursing:
1	What are the best ways to manage and/or prevent fatigue?
2	What are the best ways to improve cognition after stroke?
3	What are the best ways to manage urinary and faecal incontinence?
4	What are the best ways to manage altered mood and emotion after stroke?
5	What are the best ways to promote self-management and self-help after stroke?
6	What are the best ways of helping stroke survivors and their families come to terms with uncertainty of prognosis and the long term consequences of stroke?
7	Can a goal setting approach help recovery after stroke?
8	What is the impact of thrombolysis on emotion, cognition and communication?
9	Is a “young stroke environment” better than other stroke rehabilitation environments at improving recovery of young people after stroke?
10	What is the optimal amount and intensity of therapy provided by nurses for patients with stroke?

TABLE: Top Ten research priorities relating to stroke nursing

Acknowledgements

This priority setting project was supported by funding from Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland (CHSS). The Nursing Midwifery and Allied Health Professions (NMAHP) Research Unit is supported by the Scottish Government Health Directorate's Chief Scientist Office. The work presented here represents the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the funding bodies.