

Nursing

Parkinson's disease is an important cause of neurological disability and is the second neurodegenerative disease in terms of prevalence after Alzheimer's disease. Notwithstanding its social implications, there is very little material on neurological nursing regarding Parkinson's disease that can indicate the "best nursing practice" in this field. Unlike what occurs in most European countries and in the United States, in Italy nurses still have a poor social image and still have not achieved professional independence; this contributes to the chronic shortage of registered nurses in our country. The institution of a University diploma that provides adequate qualifications for the profession and the removal of the job description (replaced by an ethical code) provide the foundation for bringing this profession up to European standards. We believe that the National Health Service has to have more qualified and competent staff to meet the increasing needs of the community; however, such staff should not become aloof and should be readily accessible. We herewith set forth the proposal to introduce: "the agreement between nurse and citizen" stipulated on May 12, 1996, which is an ethical code for the nursing profession and documents the culture related to the professional education of registered nurses. In the light of the new responsibilities and competencies of the nursing profession, this chapter of the guide is designed to promote communication between nurse and patients with Parkinson's disease. It also is designed to contribute to the development of nursing competencies in the neurological field, with particular reference to parkinsonisms. The agreement between nurse and citizen, nurse, commit to:

- Introduce myself during our first encounter, explain who I am and what I can do for you-
- Know who you are, recognize you, call you by name and surname-
- Make myself identifiable by my uniform and identification badge-
- Give you clear and understandable answers or refer you to competent people or bodies-
- Provide you with useful information to make your contact with the national health service easier-
- Guarantee the best hygienic and environmental conditions-
- Promote maintenance of your relationships with friends and family-
- Respect your time and habits-
- Help you to face your day with balance and dignity, supporting you in the performance of daily activities, such as eating, washing, moving, sleeping when you are unable to do these things by yourself