

# Professionalization of Hemophilia Nurse Practitioners: Introducing a Peer Review Group

## Introduction and Objectives:

The Netherlands has 16,8 million inhabitants of whom approximately 170.000 have a bleeding disorder. These patients are registered in one of thirteen different Haemophilia Treatment Centers. Nationally, there are 26 nurses working in the Haemophilia care and within this small group are 5 Nurse Practitioners (NP's). The General Nursing Specialism's Association of the Netherlands has decided that NP's, in order to be eligible for re-registration within five years, have to participate in a peer review group for at least eight hours a year. Usually, these groups are formed within hospitals. To reach a better level of knowledge it seems logical to form an extra group of NP's working with patients with rare bleeding disorders.

## Materials and Methods:

Introducing a peer review group (PRG) of NP's working with patients with rare bleeding disorders to enhance expertise. The PRG will be a practical and theoretical addition to the NP's own training, knowledge and practice.

During the first meeting an overview of the expertise required by the Registration Committee is presented. One NP serves as chairman, one NP prepares a case, with accompanying literature and learning issues/dilemma's, to present within the group. All participants review the case and formulate their own learning goals and needs. One NP is responsible for the minutes of the meeting. The presenting NP chooses the presentation method.

## Results:

It takes courage to be open about the way you (or your center) work(s), to show and discuss one's own strengths or weaknesses and explore the limits of your knowledge and know-how. We have initiated an PRG and are currently exploring the best format to increase our knowledge and skills in these type of learning sessions.

## Conclusion:

Learning from and with colleagues is essential to gain insight in one's own working methods. A Peer Review Group contributes to the professionalization of the NPs, working in hemophilia and other bleeding disorders care, by sharing knowledge and joint reflection.

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