

Global Stroke Bill of Rights

As a person who has had a stroke I have a right to:



Receive the best stroke care

- A rapid diagnosis so I can be treated quickly.
- Receive treatment by a specialised team at all stages of my journey (in hospital and during rehabilitation).
- Receive care that is well coordinated.
- Access treatment regardless of financial situation, gender, culture or place that I live.
- Receive treatment that is right for me as an individual considering my age, gender, culture, goals and my changing needs over time.



Be informed and prepared

- Have access to full and accurate information about stroke risk factors.
- Be informed about the signs of stroke so I can recognise if I am having one.
- Be fully informed about what has happened to me and about living with stroke for as long as I require it.



Be supported in my recovery

- Be provided with hope for the best possible recovery I can make now and into the future.
- Receive psychological and emotional support in a form that best meets my needs.
- Be included in all aspects of society regardless of any disability I may have.
- Receive support (financial or otherwise) to ensure I am cared for in the longer term.
- Be supported to return to work and/or to other activities I may choose to participate in after my stroke.
- Get access to formal and informal advocacy to assist me with access to the services I need.
- Be connected to other stroke survivors and caregivers so I may gain and provide support in my recovery from stroke.

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Stroke is a leading cause of death in developed and developing countries and a major cause of disability. **There are over 13.7 million new strokes each year.** Globally, **one in four people over age 25 will have a stroke in their lifetime.** There are over **80 million people currently living who have experienced a stroke globally.** **Five and a half-million people die of stroke annually.**

Behind these numbers are real lives.

Despite these shocking statistics, many people affected by stroke are unable to access the treatments, rehabilitation and support that would provide them with the greatest chance of a good recovery and a healthier, more productive and independent life.

The Global Stroke Bill of Rights is an important priority for the World Stroke Organization. These rights identify the aspects of care that are important for ALL stroke survivors and caregivers from across the world.

It is a tool that can be used by individuals and organizations to communicate with stroke care providers and with governments and their agencies about what people affected by stroke think are the most important things in their recovery. Many aspects of care considered important by those affected by stroke, and included in this document, have been shown to reduce death and disability after stroke.

The Stroke Bill of Rights is not a legal document. It is a guide to the elements of stroke care that are important to stroke survivors and care givers to drive to the best possible outcomes and experiences associated with stroke.

The Stroke Bill of Rights was developed by a group of stroke survivors and caregivers from each region of the world. They were supported by a larger group of survivors and caregivers and by thousands more from different countries, cultures and languages who completed surveys to understand if there are any differences in different parts of the world. Their responses demonstrated what is considered to be important in stroke recovery is consistent regardless of where people affected by stroke live.

The issues identified through this process are outlined in the Global Stroke Bill of Rights, listed according to the importance survivors and caregivers placed on them.

We hope it is a useful tool to help improve access to care for people affected by stroke across the globe.