



WSO Campaign Skills Workshops Case Study: Brazilian Stroke Network

Part 2:

The Brazilian National Stroke Project - collaboration and planning

Soon after it was established, the Brazilian Stroke Network expanded its membership beyond neurologists to other health care professionals, including nurses, nurse assistants, physiotherapists, psychologists, speech therapists and occupational therapists. Also invited to join the network were health authorities, patients and their caregivers. It was recognised that in order to improve the quality and effectiveness of stroke care in Brazil, collaboration needed to be inter-professional and across the stroke care pathway. Further, collaboration needed to take place beyond health care professionals with policy and decision makers within the health care system. Collaboration with recipients of care was also seen as crucial, both with people affected by stroke directly and those that support their care and recovery. The Brazilian Stroke Network understood that such collaboration could mitigate fragmentation of care and ensure the development of patient centred approaches.

A taskforce of the Brazilian Stroke Network created a National Stroke Project plan with five components to address key challenges to implementing stroke care:

- Educational campaigns for the public and professionals
- Training emergency medical services
- Development of stroke centers in secondary and tertiary hospitals in Brazil
- Improving prevention of risk factors in public outpatients' clinics
- Implementation of programs for early rehabilitation and family support

Five initial implementation steps were then agreed:

- Step 1 Assessment of the situation of stroke care in the country
- Step 2 Development of the stroke centers
- Step 3 Training for stroke care
- Step 4 National stroke registry
- Step 5 Stroke educational campaigns¹

Think about the following questions:

- What do you think might have been some of the priority needs for people with lived experience of stroke within the National Stroke Plan components?
- What do you think were some of the initial communication activities for the Brazilian Stroke Network?

¹ Martins SCO, Pontes-Neto OM, Alves CV, et al. Past, Present, and Future of Stroke in Middle-Income Countries: The Brazilian Experience. *International Journal of Stroke*. 2013;8(SA100):106-111