

**Nursing care**  
**Communication**  
**Educational needs**

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**Primary Care Nurses to treat Patients with a Disability**

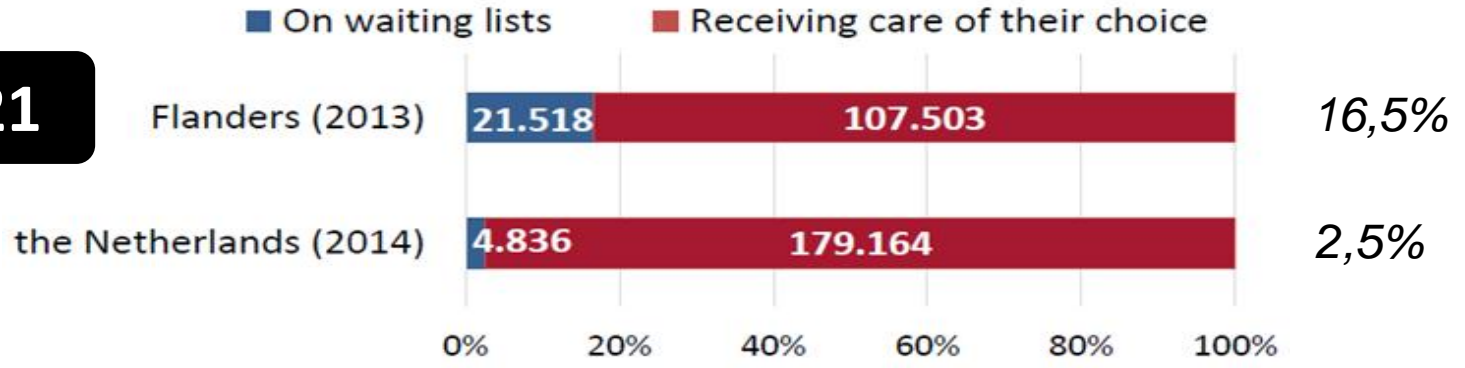


**Prof Neree Claes**



# Patients with a disability in Belgium

**n = 129.021**



**Primary Care is highly accessible**



# Objective

To detect needs of **primary care nurses** in their care for people with a disability regarding

- ❖ Nursing care
- ❖ Communication
- ❖ Educational needs

In order to provide best **quality of care** to people with a disability and their informal caregivers



## Development of questionnaire

- ❖ multidisciplinary team of primary care professionals:
  - 4 general practitioners
  - 20 primary care nurses
- ❖ content decided in consensus; in several meetings



## Definition of disability

= a physical and/or intellectual disability

≠ disabilities due to the normal ageing process

## Distribution of questionnaire

electronically to primary care nurses working in Limburg (Belgium)

## Analysis

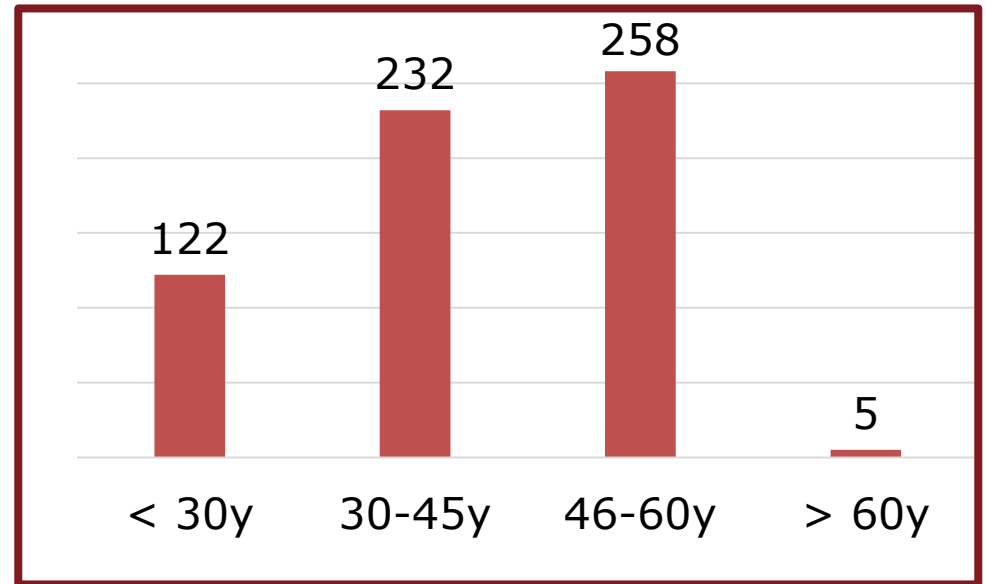
- ❖ descriptive statistics
- ❖ SPSS 22.0

# Results - Characteristics

## Response rate

617 / 1.547 questionnaires (40%)

## Age distribution



## Delivering care to

16 patients (SD 10) with 5 disabled persons (SD 6)

# Results – Care settings PCN

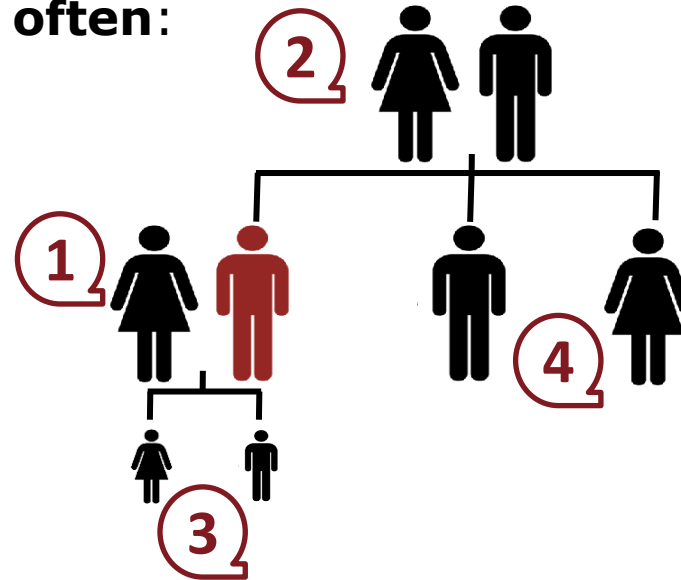
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Care settings in which primary care nurses (PCN) deliver care to people with disabilities

PCN (n = 588)	Home care only	Home & residential care	Residential care only
	54%	23%	23%

# Results – Informal care

Informal caregivers **are most often:**



PCN in **contact** with informal caregivers

- ❖ 2/3 PCN with at least half of them

Most PCN report **overburdening** of informal caregivers due to:

- ❖ overload of tasks (72%),
- ❖ coping with disability (56%),
- ❖ difficulties to find suitable care for DP (48%)
- ❖ difficulties in their communication with DP (44%)



# Results - Nursing care

Most frequently administered nursing care:

	Frequently
<b>Hygienically care</b>	96%
<b>Administering medication (+/-injections)</b>	75%
<b>Wound care</b>	55%
<b>42% Stoma (gastro-colo-urethra)</b>	
<b>34% Post-operative</b>	
<b>24% Decubitus</b>	
<b>Enema administering</b>	31%
<b>Use of an urinary catheter to drain and collect urine from the bladder</b>	15%

# Results - Nursing care

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Most frequently reported clinical problems by PCN in their care for PD:

	Frequently
<b>Physical problems</b>	88%
<b>Educational questions about clinical problems</b>	73%
<b>Mental and behavioural problems</b>	70%
<b>Follow-up of nutritional status (malnutrition or obesity)</b>	50%
<b>Problems with swallowing</b>	31%

# Results - Communication

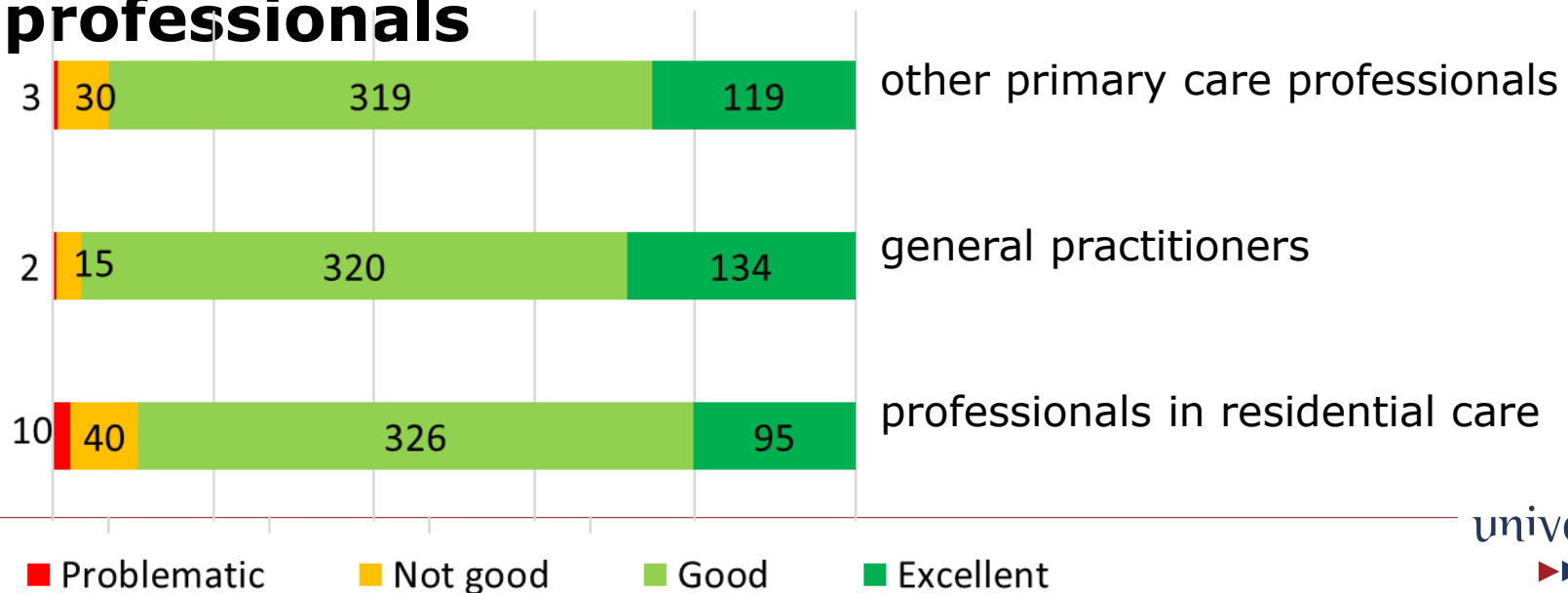
## ➤ Communication **with PD**

93% good to excellent

7% miscommunication due to:

- low intellectual capacities
- no tools to communicate
- cultural differences

## ➤ Communication **with primary healthcare professionals**



# Results - Education

Educational needs of primary care nurses (PCN) regarding clinical knowledge

	RANKING
Dealing with behavioural problems	1
Muscle rigidity and –spasticity	2
Muscle diseases	3
Epilepsy	4
Cerebral palsy	5
Acquired brain injury	6
Down syndrome	7
Relational problems (sexual needs)	8
Socio-emotional age	9
Dealing with functional loss	10

→ **no significant difference** between  
PCN working exclusively in PD's "home" & "home & residential care"

# Results - Education

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Inadequate knowledge of primary care nurses (PCN) about services resorting under Flemish agency for persons with disabilities (VAPH)

	PCN
Procedure for admission in residential care facilities	80%
Residential care facilities in the region	62%
Personal assistance budget	81%

# Conclusion

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## **a significant need for education of PCN to nurse PD**

- no necessity to create a new curriculum:
  - elaborating on existing topics, with specific consideration for the needs of patients with a physical and/or intellectual disability can fill in the gaps nurses reported in this research.
- in organizations:
  - design educational programs to provide PCN with skills to provide high quality care to PD.

# Thank you!



Claes N, Storms H, Moermans V. Care, communication and educational needs of primary care nurses to treat disabled patients. *Journal of Nursing Education and Practice* 2016, Vol. 6, No. 7