

# 4th EfCCNa Congress & FSAIO Spring Congress



CRITICAL CARE NURSING IN EUROPE: WORKING TOGETHER ACHIEVING MORE

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## Nursing consultancy in Italian intensive care units (ICU).

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The nurse has the juridical and deontological obligation to provide responses that are equally adequate to the requests.

## Code of Ethics of Italian Nurse (2009)

### Art 13

The nurse assumes responsibility according to his/her own level of competence, and appeals if necessary to the intervention or to the advice of experts or specialized nurses. They offer advices by placing their knowledge and abilities at the disposal of the professional community.

- Level of care qualitatively appropriate to the criticality of the patient
- Fostering health
- Identification of clinical deterioration
- Promotion and development the nursing profession/competences
- Fruitful cooperation and team working
- Uniformity of treatment



## Consultant

One who assists with the advice; the one who, if requested, states his/her own opinion in things concerning art and science of which is expert.



## Consultancy (professional advice)

“A relation based on helping.

It is a process of interaction with the consultant, which has the expertise and the capacity, and the person asking for advice, which asks assistance for the solution of a problem.

It's a relation that has a beginning and an end, temporary, voluntary and educational.”

(A. M. Tomey. Nursing Management theory and practice. Sorbonne 1995, 20 pp. Schein, Counseling Lessons, 1987)

Process by which a nurse provides information and advices on methods and professional techniques in areas where he/she developed a particular expertise.”

(C. Calamandrei, C. Orlando Nursing Management- Training manual for nurses with managerial functions. McGraw-Hill 2002, pp 479-82)

## **Aim**

describe the characteristics of nursing consultancy and investigate its use and real diffusion in Italian ICU to improve its use.

## **Materials and methods**

- **Formal and informal Review of the literature (pubmed, google, nursing Italian websites).** (Key words: nurse consultancy; critical care/ICU. Limits: last 10 years, adults, nurse journals)
- **National phone survey through the administration of structured questionnaire to ICU centers.** (conducted starting from June to October 2010).

# 1. Literature review

“Few are the contributions of Italian authors published, while publications of important experiences have been found in the United Kingdom and the United States.”

(L. Marconi, A. Santullo. The nursing consultancy from theory to practice: the experience at the ASL of Rimini. Nursing Management, No 3 / 2009)

**Poor  
informal,  
insufficiently clear**

English NHS 2001, 4 core functions:

**50%**

- expert practice
- professional leadership
- education, training and development
- practice and service development, research and evaluation

UK NHS (National health service) 1999

- Technical performance
- Training under the supervision of a co-worker
- Patient and family education
- Evaluation
- Supervision

**Objectives**

- To enhance and strengthen professional integration
- To provide more qualified and effective care
  - To develop skills, attitudes, experiences, methods.

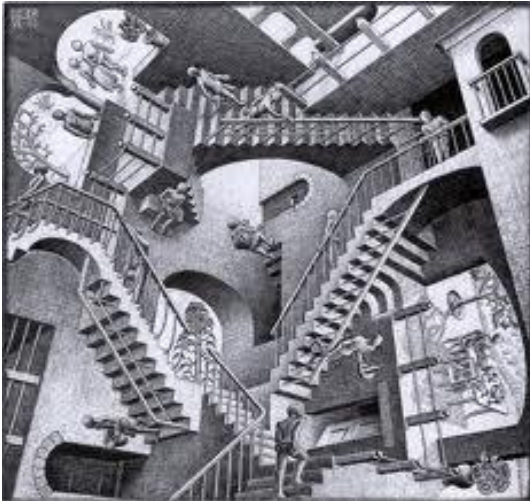
• Fairley D, Closs S. J. Evaluation of a nurse consultant's clinical activities and the search for patient outcomes in critical care. Journal of Clinical Nursing 2006, 15 pp 1106-1114

Drandi A, Gatto T, Joachim G, et al. Implementing an organizational model of nursing expertise: the design and planning. Nursing Management 2004; 4:1-10

- Dellai M, Ruocco M, O Roat, Dallapè F. The nursing consultancy. AIR 2006 25

The nurse consultant should have a substantial clinical experience and high level degrees

Improve clinical skills with 100 hours of training per year. Vertical career



### Factors hindering the consultancy

- lack of clarity and trust in the functions and role of the nurse consultant and his/her areas of responsibility
  - difficulty to accept the differentiation of nursing competences, both, by doctors and nurses
    - absence of projects within the company for the formalization of the role of nurse consultant
    - lack of knowledgs
    - expectations too high
- Glen & Waddington 1998, Ball 1999, Marsden 2000, Tye & Ross 2000)
- failure to recognize a time devoted to nursing consultancy;

no specific legislation except for: articles 13 - 14 - 15 on the CE and Law 43/2006 (advance training).

Only 2 Italian experiences identify the nurse consultant's job description (clinical experience and/ master, 20/30 hours of training per year, educational experience, knowledge of English and IT systems, .....)



- Wound Care
- Diabetes
- Surgical
- Palliative
- Psychiatric
- Enterostomy
- Vascular access
  
- Forensic

**Critical area?**





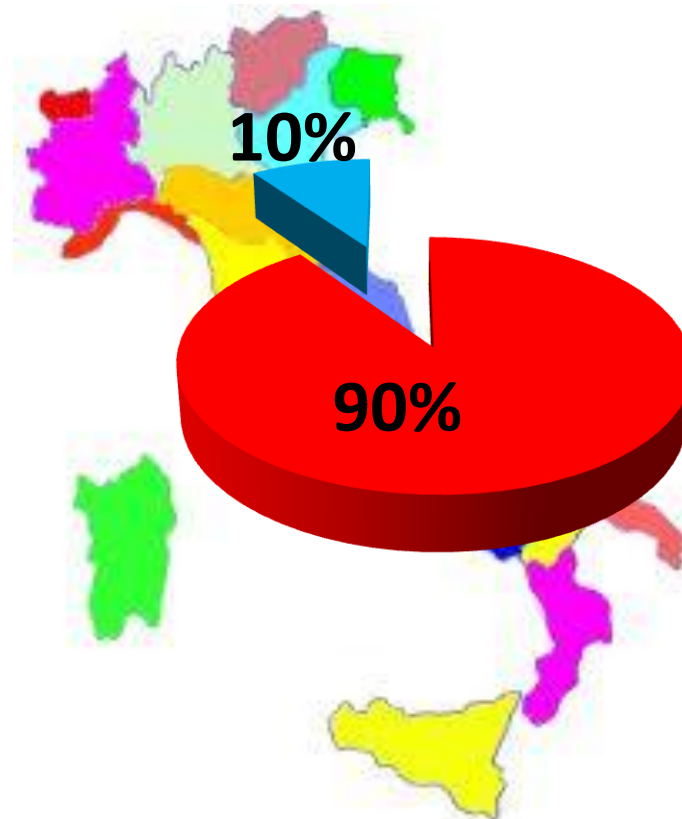
## 2<sup>o</sup> National Survey

**Objective:** To investigate the diffusion and practical application of nursing consultancy

**Population:** Centers of Resuscitation and Intensive Care, for adults

**Methods:** Phone interview using structured questionnaire with closed-ended answers.

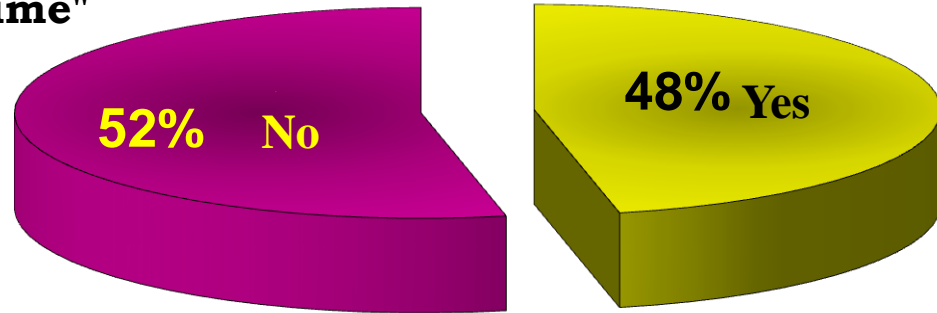
Interviewed 313  
Respondents 283  
Non-respondents 30



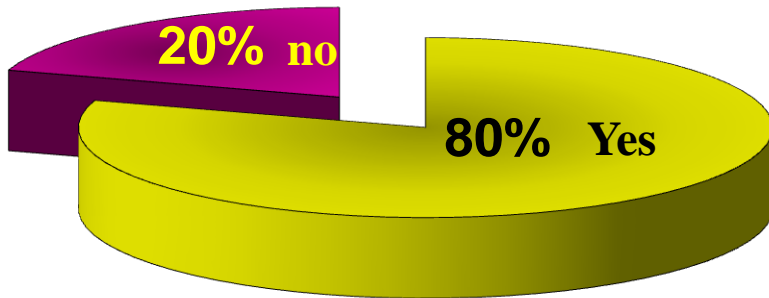


1. *In your intensive care unit, are the nurses performing nursing consultancy in the other UO?*

3. "For a short period of time"  
"Almost Protocol "  
"Surgery Inf.co"  
"Training Course"  
"Utopia"

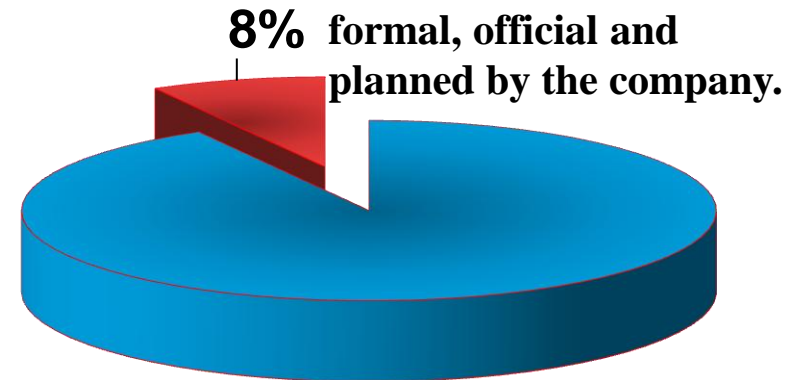


3) *In your opinion would be important to establish a nursing consultancy service within the company?*



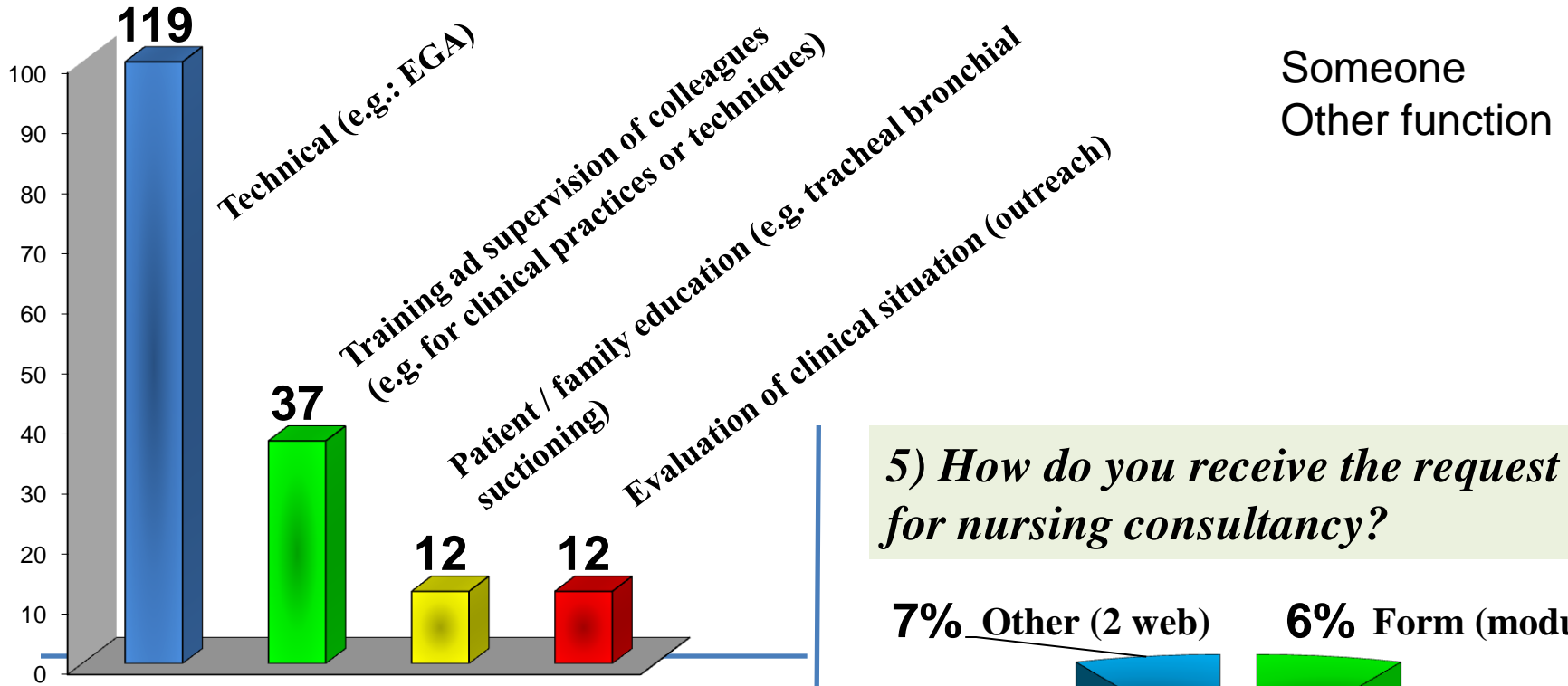
**Burden of care  
staff shortages  
lake of Professional recognition**

2) *Do you perform formal or informal nurse consultancy?*

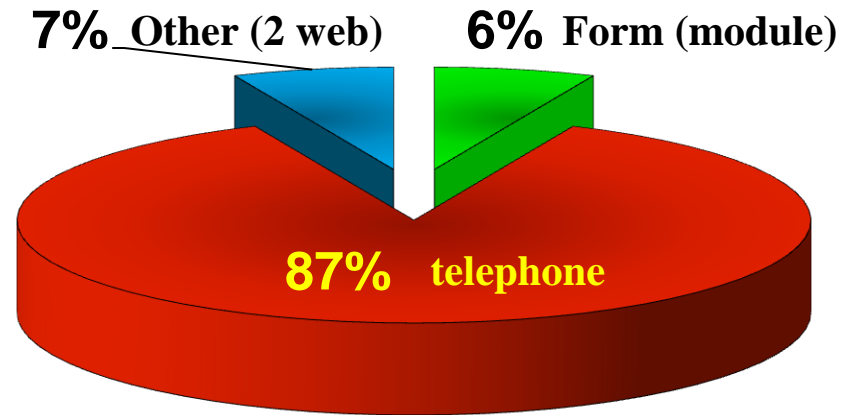


**92%** informal,  
between peers, between nurses who know each other

#### 4) What kind of nurse consultancy do you perform?



#### 5) How do you receive the request for nursing consultancy?

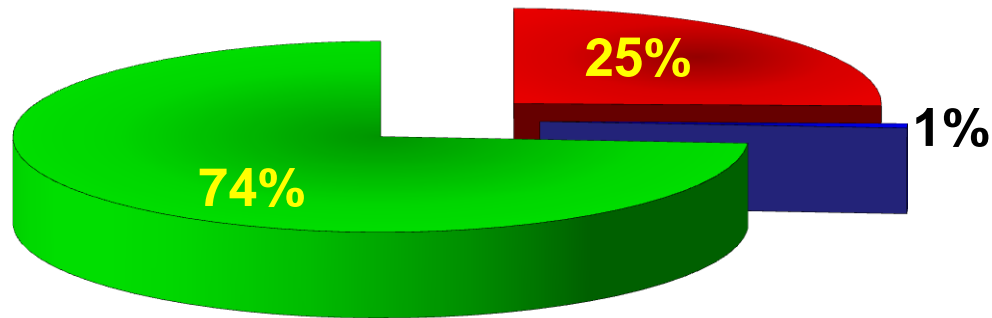


#### 6) Is the intervention recorded in a form?



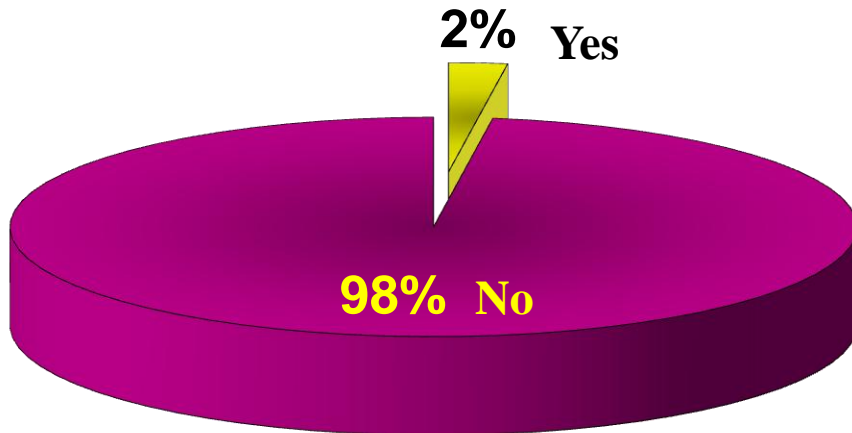
■ Si  
■ No

### 7) Who practices the nursing consultancy?

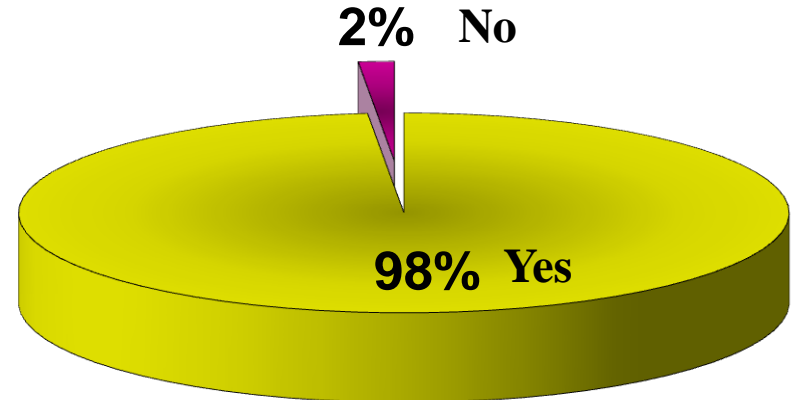


- expert nurses (with more than 3 years experience in critical care)
- advanced nurses (with a master in critical area, specialty degree, or specialty courses)
- other – outside work (nurse who has the competency, who responds first)

### 9) Is the consultant nurse paid?




### 8) Is the consultancy carried out during the work time?



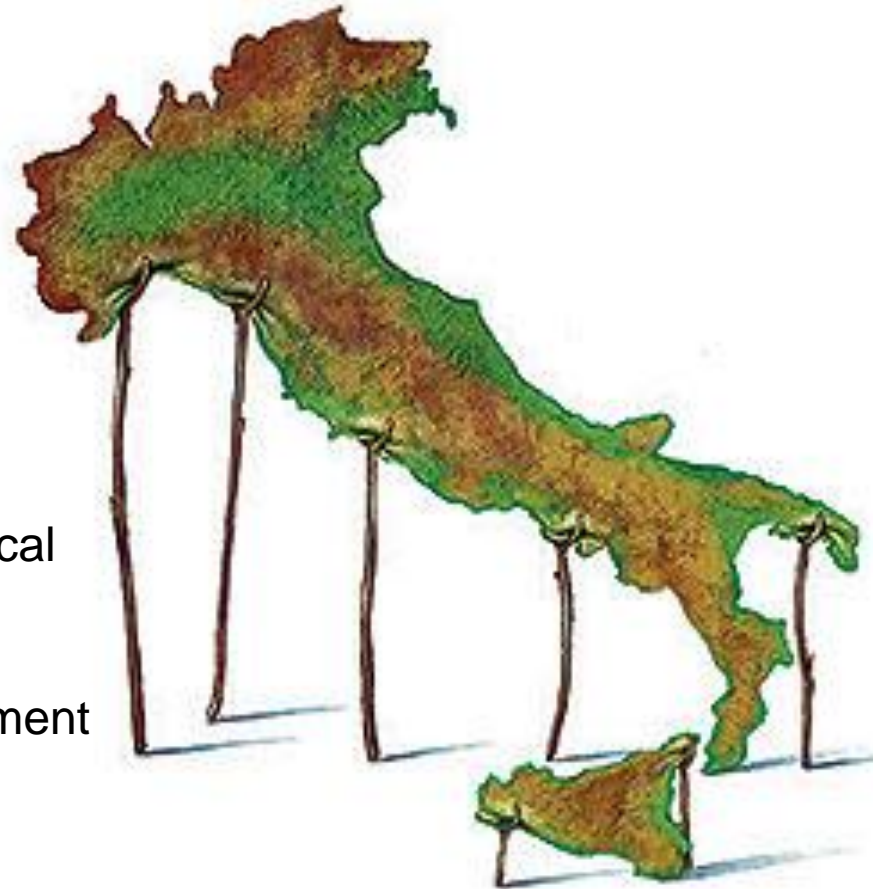
# The nursing consultancy is an indispensable practice

improve the quality of care  
ensure uniformity of treatment  
instrument of professional development



*"The transition from an informal nursing consultancy between nurses who "know each other" to a nursing consultancy-liaison, official into the hospital plan, is not only a need felt by many parts, but a specific ethical and legal duty (Calamandrei, 2002)".*

- Collect data and increase their diffusion
- Increase professional common sense
- Improve advanced skills (43/2006) and practical experience
- Developed educational programs
- And regard consultancy as a key to improvement and not as a means to solve problems.





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