

The role of a psychologist in a long-term intensive care unit

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Abstract

The thesis defines the role of a clinical psychologist in the long-term intensive care unit in MEDITERRA-Sedlčany, s. r. o. and reflects the present experience. In contrast to standard acute care, patients of this unit demand long-term intensive care stretching from a number of weeks to a number of years. The care focuses on physiotherapy, the treatment of associated diseases, practicing and developing new competencies and skills.

The role of a psychologist in the long-term intensive care unit has not been defined yet. Thus, the theoretical part describes the structure and aim of the long-term intensive care unit, the possibilities and constraints of psychological cooperation with patients, their relatives and team members.

The core of the thesis is a qualitative research based on ten case studies and a semi-structured questionnaire. The aim is to present the background of care and its critical appraisal, to describe its development and to suggest its future direction.

Key words: long-term intensive care, psychological care, qualitative analysis, psychological burden, critical illness, quality of life.