

## **ABSTRACT**

**Thesis subject:** The Role of Family Carers in the Nursing Home for Persons with Cognitive Impairment.

The theme of this thesis is the role of the family carers in the nursing home for persons with cognitive impairment. This topic is very actual due to the aging of society and to the increasing of life expectancy. A proportion of the old people in society increases but in the same time there is a decreasing number of people who could take care of them at home (due to negative population balance, disintegration of traditional family, economic situation and high requirements of the care etc.). Many seniors who are depending on the help of the others (such as people with dementia) spend their old age in institutional care.

The qualitative research in this thesis shows that families continue in caregiving even after the admission of their relatives to a nursing home. The aim of this research was to describe the involvement of families in the institutional care and to identify factors that influence this phenomenon. Research was conducted in one nursing home for persons with cognitive impairment. Semistructured interviews were conducted with a sample of informants consisting of five professional nurses and four family carers. The analysis of data was carried out using the grounded theory.

Research provides a comprehensive survey of the structure of family care in the nursing home. This care has five components - emotional support, physical and socio-cultural mobilization, technical care, supportive care and care provided outside the facility. Nursing activities are associated with the four caring roles (auditor, lawyer, caregiver and colleague of professional carers). Family involvement in caregiving is characterized by three dimensions - intensity, quality and mode of involvement.

Involvement in the caregiving is influenced by the specific properties that the family care obtains after entering to the institution and by the several factors relating to the family, patient, institution and society.

**Keywords:** dementia, family, family care, nursing home for persons with cognitive impairment, nursing home care, nursing home staff, family involvement