

Caregiver

A caregiver or carer is an unpaid or paid member of a person's social network who helps them with activities of daily living.

Caregiving is most commonly used to address impairments related to old age, disability, a disease, or a mental disorder.

Typical duties of a caregiver might include taking care of someone who has a chronic illness or disease; managing medications or talking to doctors and nurses on someone's behalf; helping to bathe or dress someone who is frail or disabled; or taking care of household chores, meals, or bills for someone who cannot do these things alone.

With an increasingly aging population in all developed societies, the role of caregiver has been increasingly recognized as an important one, both functionally and economically. Many organizations which provide support for persons with disabilities have developed various forms of support for carers as well.

A study describes several unmet needs, finds inconsistencies in how information is delivered and a lack of patient-and-caregiver-centered approaches to communication. Neurosurgery groups should identify unmet needs at their institution and implement strategies and interventions to improve the patient and caregiver experience ¹⁾.

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Harrison JD, Seymann G, Imershein S, Amin A, Afsarmanesh N, Uppington J, Aledia A, Pretanvil S, Wilson B, Wong J, Varma J, Boggan J, Hsu FPK, Carter B, Martin N, Berger M, Lau CY. The impact of unmet communication and education needs on neurosurgical patient and caregiver experiences of care: A qualitative exploratory analysis. *World Neurosurg.* 2018 Nov 21. pii: S1878-8750(18)32644-5. doi: 10.1016/j.wneu.2018.11.094. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30471444.

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