

CONTINUING HEALTH EDUCATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF CORRECT MEDICATION USE

Almeida, J.M.^{1*}; Xavier, A.C.N.²; Souza, C.P.F.A.³, Camuzi, R.C.^{1,4}

¹*Mestrado Profissional em Ensino na Saúde / Escola de Enfermagem Aurora Afonso Costa / Universidade Federal Fluminense, Rua Dr. Celestino, 74, Niterói, RJ, Brasil*

²*Bolsista PIBIC-CNPq/ Faculdade de Farmácia / Universidade Federal Fluminense, Rua Dr. Mario Viana, 523, Niterói, RJ, Brasil*

³*Secretaria Municipal de Saúde do Rio de Janeiro, Rua Afonso Cavalcanti, 455, 8º andar, Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil*

⁴*Departamento de Farmácia e Administração Farmacêutica/ Faculdade de Farmácia / Universidade Federal Fluminense, Rua Dr. Mario Viana, 523, Niterói, RJ, Brasil*

*jessicamartins@id.uff.

Introduction

Continuing Health Education (CHE) is a fundamental approach to the continuing education of health professionals, especially Community Health Agents (CHAs), professionals who play a crucial role in health promotion and the promotion of the correct use of medicines in communities. However, many CHAs face challenges due to gaps in specific knowledge, which can compromise the effectiveness of their actions. This project aims to develop an educational product through continuing health education that seeks to improve CHAs' knowledge about the correct use of medicines and, consequently, promote health education for the community in this context.

Material and Methods

The development of the educational product will be carried out in a primary care setting and structured in three main stages: (1) Initial Diagnosis: a survey of the sociodemographic and learning profiles of the CHAs will be carried out, in addition to the assessment of their prior knowledge about the use of medicines, using semi-structured questionnaires; (2) development and offer of a continuing education strategy in the form of an extension course lasting up to 10 weeks, incorporating active learning methodologies, such as videos, case studies, and forums, to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and the development of skills; (3) Post-course evaluation: the effectiveness of the course will be assessed through questionnaires to verify changes in specific knowledge, practices, and perceptions of CHAs after the educational intervention. The study population is composed of CHAs linked to a basic health unit in the municipality of Rio de Janeiro. The study was approved by the Research Ethics Committees (CEP) of UFF and the Municipal Health Department of Rio de Janeiro (C.A.A.E. 80267824.3.0000.8160) and follows the relevant ethical guidelines.

Results and Discussion

The study recruited 38 CHAs who responded to instruments to characterize sociodemographic and learning profiles and perceptions of limitations to acting in promoting the correct use of medicines. We started analyzing the collected data and hope that it will support decisions about the best approaches to be incorporated into the pedagogical proposal that will be developed and applied next. The implementation of the extension course is an opportunity for significant improvement in the knowledge and practices of CHAs in relation to the correct use of medicines, which will be verified through the assessment of knowledge before and after the course, in addition to the evaluations applied longitudinally. Therefore, the confidence of CHAs in their practices related to the use of medicines is expected to increase, reflecting a

positive change in their care approaches. The planned methodology aims not only at the transmission of knowledge but also at the exchange of knowledge and critical awareness of health, which can be reflected in patient safety.

Conclusion

The effectiveness of the course methodology may improve CHAs' knowledge about the use of medicines, promoting positive changes in their practices. The educational product developed can serve as a practical and replicable tool for the continuing education of CHAs, strengthening the promotion of the correct use of medicines in primary care, with the possibility of being adapted to different contexts.

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