

## DISTANCE EDUCATION IN THE TRAINING OF PHARMACISTS AND RESEARCHERS: PROSPECTS FOR AN EVALUATION PROCESS.

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**Introduction:** The scientific literature on pharmaceutical care is growing worldwide trend, however the difficulty of acceptance of Brazilian publications in "A" journals of specific studies indicates that we still need to strengthen the impact of research in this country. One of the difficulties in evaluating clinical and humanistic outcomes of pharmaceutical interventions using methods of pharmaceutical care stems from the need to develop skills aimed at enabling clinical pharmacists intervene in health-disease process. Being a recent sub-field of pharmaceutical knowledge, with few researchers in the country, intervention methods are not standardized and the participants are not properly certified. This scenario has negative repercussions on the quality of pharmaceutical intervention studies, leading to impairment of clinical trials that seek to determine the efficacy/effectiveness of methods in pharmaceutical care. At the request of the Ministry of Health, our group has been developing projects in distance education course for pharmacists working in primary healthcare in Brazil to train clinical skills.

**Objective:** Evaluate the production of learning objects and a training course in distance education mode, on a pilot-course to train pharmacists who work in primary health care. From the evaluation and identification of learning processes linked to pharmaceutical interventions, we aim to optimize the training of pharmacists and teachers to participate in multicenter projects as in major research centers.

**Materials and Methods:** The object of the study is the course "Farmacêuticos na APS: construindo uma relação integral", in a pilot for the period from October 15, 2009 to April 16 of 2010 with total workload of 230 hours, being 170 hours in Distance Education. The course will be analyzed for their planning, communication resources (forum, chat and messaging), learning objects (animated cartoons, games, video simulations, texts, audios, problem-situation and fictitious territory) student performance on tasks and performance of the team trainer. The data will be analyzed using descriptive statistical analysis, because it is a pilot project. The quality's patterns of distance learning established by the Ministry of Education will be considered as general parameter analysis. The analysis will seek to establish relationships between learning objects and student performance, performance evaluation of tutors and students. This project will be submitted to the evaluation of the Research Ethics Committee.

**Conclusions:** With the data analysis, will be possible to develop a proposed evaluative approach for developed courses in pharmacists distance education and, after testing its applicability, in other courses. If the instrument can detect the development of professional skills, this education process can also be used not only in education at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, but in the preparation of researchers in the field of pharmaceutical care.

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