

How to approach the question of smoking in health units with a tuberculosis program in Brazil?

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BACKGROUND

In Brazil, tuberculosis is a serious public health problem; every year approximately 70,000 new cases are reported and 4,500 deaths occur due to the disease. The main global guidelines on tuberculosis do not highlight the need for tobacco control to better control tuberculosis. In Brazil, tuberculosis is treated free of charge by the Unified Health System. In order to guide the approach of smoking by health professionals of health units that perform tuberculosis treatment, a guidance manual has been developed.

METHODS

Elaboration of the Manual "How to approach the issue of smoking control in health units with a tuberculosis program in Brazil", was based on the Clinical Protocol and Guidelines on Nicotine Dependence advocated by the Brazilian Ministry of Health. Participated in the preparation of the teams of the National Tobacco Program of the Ministry of Health, National Program of Tuberculosis of the Ministry of Health, Representative of PAHO Brazil and representative of the Brazilian Medical Association.

RESULTS

The manual was finalized and will be distributed to all health units that attend the National Tuberculosis Program, as well as available on the website of the Ministry of Health. It is hoped to contribute to organize the articulation of tuberculosis services in health units with the tobacco control program, to establish better care practices for the tuberculosis patient who wants to give up smoking and thus contribute to a better response to treatment.

CONCLUSIONS

The manual "How to address the issue of tobacco control in health facilities with a tuberculosis program" will instruct health professionals to approach smoking cessation among the population with tuberculosis and optimize that this approach occurs preferentially in the network of health care. Considering that smoking and tuberculosis are among the population of low income, schooling and with psychiatric comorbidities. Thus, units should be able to apply at least the minimum approach or have all guidelines to refer TB patients who demonstrate motivation to quit smoking to licensed cessation units in the municipality.