CORE COMPETENCIES IN OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE IN BRAZILIAN PROCESSES FOR SPECIALIST EDUCATION, CONTINUOUS EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

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Introduction: The core competencies required for occupational physicians (OP) need to be adapted continuously evolving around the world. Since 2002 the Brazilian National Association of Occupational Medicine (ANAMT) is guiding the training and certification processes, quite similar to other Occupational Health Associations in the European Union or in some other individual countries around the world. The aim of this study was to describe the process and the results of a Brazilian assessment, to actualize existing data, seek consensus and identify the common core competencies required for OP nowadays.

Methods: A modified Delphi study was carried out among 223 OP’s, associate members of the ANAMT. The study was conducted in two rounds (round 1: rating of the principal competency domains; round 2: ranking) using a questionnaire based on the specialist training syllabus of different countries, expert panel reviews and conference discussions.

Result: There was broad consensus on all identified competency domains with scores of 90% and over in every domain. In the first step the results were organised in six domains, 24 general competencies and 124 specific competencies. The competency to act ethically and professionally was considered as the main priority amongst Brazilian OP’s concerning the core competencies required for OH practice and the results seem in concordance with similar studies conducted worldwide. These findings can serve as a platform for the qualification processes for medical residence/specialisation trainings and specialist certification.

INTRODUCTORY EXPANSION

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AMONG THE FARM WORKERS WHILE PERFORMING THE FARM ACTIVITIES DURING SUMMER MONTHS

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Introduction: India being mainly an agricultural country, economy and further its growth purely depends on farming, making agriculture as most preferred occupation nationwide. The exposure of farm workers to this extreme weather condition especially during the summer months (March-June) is just hampering their health. Worsening of health is more prominent because most of farm activities are carried out manually under direct heat exposure and lack of awareness among the farm workers regarding the health hazards and even the unavailability of the protective methods. The combination of manual farm activities and heat exposure is a health, environmental and occupational issue, which need serious concern. The study focused on finding out the adaptive methods adopted by the farm workers.

Methods: The study was undertaken to find out the adaptive methods adopted by the farm workers while accomplishing the farm activities during month of March to June and develop PPE to protect them from heat stress.

Results: It was revealed that 98.9 percent of the farmers increased daily water intake, whereas, 27.8 percent increased liquid diet in their daily food intake. Regular intake of the