

TRAINING COURSE ON SURVEILLANCE OF MATERNAL, CHILD AND FETAL DEATH, AND ACTING ON COMMITTEES OF DEATH

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Background: Over the last few decades, although mother, infant and fetal deaths have decreased considerably, rates continue to be high, mainly in the North and Northeast of Brazil. In these areas we also can see high proportions of under-recording and un-reliable mortality data. This disqualifies the work of health programs for this group. So, the Brazilian Ministry of Health prioritizes, amongst other actions, educating the health professionals to develop competence to investigate mother, infant and fetal deaths and identify the causes for control and propose opportunities for effective actions.

Objectives: To qualify health professionals to develop surveillance of maternal, infant and fetal deaths and propose intervention measures in different social contexts through the practical experience with updated knowledge and in the political context. The target is to train 4500 professionals across the country, 70% of them from areas with higher mortality rate of maternal, infant and fetal death in Brazil.

Materials: The course will be developed entirely for distance learning. It is divided into three learning units with a total workload of 180hrs. The didactic material is divided into three parts. The first to discuss human rights, the unified health system of Brazil and the problem of maternal, infant and fetal mortality in Brazil and worldwide. It also discusses public policies aimed at assisting the population's health and reducing mortality. The second parts aims to deepen student's knowledge of the assessments, control and prevention of death, including notification, filling in the forms and the flow of information, as well as knowledge about the composition and activities of the Mortality Committees, and relevant legislation. The third and the last part conducts eight mortality case studies that represent the problem of the surveillance of maternal, infant and fetal deaths and corresponding ethical and conceptual discussion.

The pedagogical concept of the didactic material is to respect and re-activate the student's previous knowledge, narrowing the gap between theory and practice, and develop autonomy, critique and creativity. The students will also solve cases based on reality, valuing knowledge gained, stimulating observation of professional context, the search for solutions to day to day problems and contribute to their qualification. The didactic material was put together with the participation of professionals from different institutions in Brazil. The course team is compounded by teaching supervisors that monitor the tutor's work with the students. The didactic material has to be validated by all the TS's and 10 Tutors.

The course will use forums, chat, discussion lists and complementary texts.

Conclusions: The qualification of health professionals in surveillance of maternal, infant and fetal death is a key strategy to support the implementation of effective actions to reduce these deaths and propose intervention measures in different social contexts.