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MULTIDISCIPLINARY COMPETENCIES FOR OLDER ADULT ATTENTION IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

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Introduction: According to World Health Organization's, "age-friendly" primary health project all providers should receive basic training in core competencies of older adult care. Objective: This investigation aimed to identify and analyze the necessary competencies for older adult attention in the primary health care practice of Brazil. Materials and Methods: The Delphi Technique was used as the method of study. Three groups of participants were selected: one contained primary health care professionals (n = 39), the second was a multidisciplinary committee (n = 22), and the third included primary health care professionals from an specific area of Porto Alegre, Brazil (n=48). Three questionnaires were developed for the study. The first asked participants to indicate competencies which were compiled into a list. A Likert Scale of 1 to 5 was added to this list in the second and third questionnaires. A consensus criterion of 75% for scores 4 or 5 was adopted. Results: On the third round 41 competencies were identified. These competencies were classified into twelve domains: Critical Thinking, Communication, Assessment, Technical Skills, Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, and Disease Prevention, Information and Health Care Technologies, illness and Disease Management, Health Care Systems and Policy, Human Diversity, Provider of Care, Member of a Profession, Designer/Manager/Coordinator of Care. Conclusions: These competencies reflect Brazilian health policy and constitute a reference for health professional practice and education.