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Development of Competency-Based Curricula with a Focus on Interprofessionalism in Health

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Abstract

Since 1999, with the definition of UNESCO's four pillars of education, curricula have been guided by the need for the development of competencies. This work aims to describe the curricular systematicity for the construction of competencies focusing on interprofessional health, implemented in nine health courses at seven institutions of an educational group in northeastern Brazil. Initiated in January 2020, some parameters were determined for the beginning of the curricular reformulation: continuity of a previously implemented competencybased curriculum; focus on interprofessionalism and incorporation of technologies for learning (hybridism). Initially, general competencies were outlined, aligned with the Institutional Pedagogical Project, followed by the definition of specific competencies that guided the curricular construction, these as results of documentary research and field research. Next, action fields and spheres of action were determined, concluding with a profile of the graduate for each course, with integrations between them. Competencies were allocated in vertical axes representing these fields and spheres. The learning objectives necessary to achieve each competency were connected to the content required for this learning. Disciplines emerged as a result of this process, as learning objectives showed adherence. Based on the defined curriculum matrix, other integrations were traced: horizontal, through interprofessional extension integrative projects, and transversal, with themes of general education. With this systematic and logical approach to curricular organization, the student formation process is directly connected to real professional and interprofessional practice in the health field.

Keywords: Curriculum – Competency Based Curriculum – Education – Health - Interprofessional Education in Health