Skill mix of nurses and primary health care professionals: a systematic review

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Introduction

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(UN, 2015)
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• Including new skills for health professionals or expanding the roles of nurses are alternatives found in more than 50% of the countries in the world to increase population access to health professionals.

(UN, 2015; WHO, 2020)
Question

- What is the effectiveness of the skill mix in primary care?
Objective

• To evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy of skill mix of nurses and other health care professionals in primary health care (PHC).
Methods

• Systematic review of the literature.
• Including observational and intervention studies.
• Studies published in Spanish, English and Portuguese were included.
• Electronic databases: MEDLINE, CINAHL, LILACS, EMBASE and Web of Science.
Methods

• PICO strategy
• Population: Clients of primary healthcare
• Intervention: Skill mix in nursing
• Comparison: Skill mix X Traditional care by nurses
• Outcome: Service Improvement

What is the effectiveness of the skill mix in primary care?
Results

• 5,820 studies
• 370 screened
• 18 included
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<tr>
<td>Geração da sequência aleatória</td>
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## Results

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<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Levels of evidence (GRADE)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Better use of financial resources (MYLES et al., 1996)</td>
<td>Very low</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving quality of care (ANDERSON; HSIEH; SU, 1998)</td>
<td>Low</td>
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<td>Person’s staying in treatment long enough to reap its full benefits (HUBA; CHERIN; MELCHIOR, 1999)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td>More effective utilization of material resource (VAN DER BIEZEN et al., 2016)</td>
<td>High</td>
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<td>Better use of financial resources (VAN DER BIEZEN et al., 2016)</td>
<td>High</td>
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<td>Better use of financial resources (DIERICK-VAN DAELE et al., 2010)</td>
<td>High</td>
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Discussion

• The skill mix and collaborative practice in health systems in Developing countries point out that these models are alternatives to overcome the difficulties imposed by health professionals' shortage.

(FULTON et al., 2011)
Conclusion

- The assessment of the skill mix of nurses with other professionals and the expansion of the nurse’s role and collaborative practice at the PHC level proved to be practical and real in several countries.
Conclusion

• The assessment of the skill mix of nurses with other professionals and the expansion of the nurse’s role and collaborative practice at the PHC level proved to be practical and real in several countries.

• The expansion of tasks, skills, or nurses' role is an important strategy to overcome the obstacles imposed by the shortage of human resources in PHC.
Conclusion

- Benefits of nurses' skills with other health professional:
  - Can transform their role,
  - Improve care provision,
  - Increase adherence and permanence of patients in the therapy,
  - Better use of human resource,
  - Improve health outcomes.
References


