

Advanced Nursing Practices, Primary Health Care and Leprosy in Brazil (BR)

Práticas Avançadas de Enfermagem, Atenção Primária à Saúde e Hanseníase no Brasil (BR)

Prácticas Avanzadas de Enfermería, Atención Primaria de Salud y Lepra en Brasil (BR)

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Abstract

The objective was to relate, through the theoretical-scientific reference, the Advanced Practice of Nursing, Primary Health Care and Leprosy in Brazil. Descriptive study, integrative review, with theoretical-scientific survey carried out by crossing the Health Sciences Descriptors: Advanced Practice Nursing, Primary Health Care and Leprosy; Boolean operators applied AND and OR. By the VHL, in the SciELO Virtual Library and in the LILACS Database, data collection date: march 2022. After applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria, 16 studies remained to be analyzed in the research. The discussion on the incorporation of Advanced Practice Nurses in Brazil and Latin America began in 2013 with the launch by the Pan American Health Organization of the resolution Human Resources for Health, expanding access to qualified health professionals in health systems based on Primary Health Care, for this research focusing on leprosy. This study achieved its objective, relating through the theoretical-scientific framework the Advanced Practice of Nursing, Primary Health Care (PHC) and Leprosy in Brazil, demonstrating that international experiences have irrevocable potential to improve the population's access to health services.

Keywords: Advanced practice nursing; Primary Health Care; Leprosy; Health teaching.

Resumo

O objetivo foi relacionar, por meio do referencial teórico-científico, a Prática Avançada de Enfermagem, Atenção Primária à Saúde e Hanseníase no Brasil. Estudo descritivo, revisão integrativa, com levantamento teórico-científico realizado por meio do cruzamento dos Descritores em Ciências da Saúde: Prática Avançada de Enfermagem, Atenção Primária à Saúde e Hanseníase; Operadores booleanos aplicados AND e OR. Pela BVS, na Biblioteca Virtual SciELO e na Base de Dados LILACS, data da coleta de dados: março de 2022. Após a aplicação dos critérios de inclusão e exclusão, restaram 16 estudos para serem analisados na pesquisa. A discussão sobre a incorporação de Enfermeiros de Prática Avançada no Brasil e na América Latina teve início em 2013 com o lançamento pela Organização Pan-Americana da Saúde da resolução Recursos Humanos para a Saúde, ampliando o acesso a profissionais de saúde qualificados em sistemas de saúde baseados na Atenção Primária à Saúde, para esta pesquisa com foco na hanseníase. Este estudo atingiu seu objetivo, relacionando por meio do referencial teórico-científico a Prática Avançada de Enfermagem, Atenção Primária à Saúde (APS) e Hanseníase no Brasil, demonstrando que as experiências internacionais têm potencial irrevogável para melhorar o acesso da população aos serviços de saúde.

Palavras-chave: Prática avançada de enfermagem; Atenção Primária à Saúde; Hanseníase; Ensino em saúde.

Resumen

El objetivo fue relacionar, a través del referencial teórico-científico, la Práctica Avanzada de Enfermería, la Atención Primaria de Salud y la Lepra en Brasil. Estudio descriptivo, revisión integradora, con levantamiento teórico-científico realizado por cruce de los Descriptores de Ciencias de la Salud: Práctica Avanzada de Enfermería, Atención Primaria de Salud y Lepra; Operadores booleanos aplicados AND y OR. A través de la BVS, en la Biblioteca Virtual SciELO y en la Base de Datos LILACS, fecha de recolección de datos: marzo de 2022. Después de aplicar los criterios de inclusión y exclusión, quedaron 16 estudios para ser analizados en la investigación. La discusión sobre la incorporación de Enfermeras de Práctica Avanzada en Brasil y América Latina comenzó en 2013 con el lanzamiento por parte de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud de la resolución Recursos Humanos para la Salud, ampliando el acceso a profesionales de la salud calificados en los sistemas de salud basados en la Atención Primaria de Salud, para esta investigación centrada en la lepra. Este estudio logró su objetivo, relacionando a través del marco teórico-científico la Práctica Avanzada de Enfermería, Atención Primaria de Salud (APS) y Lepra en Brasil, demostrando que las experiencias internacionales tienen un potencial irrevocable para mejorar el acceso de la población a los servicios de salud.

Palabras clave: Enfermería de práctica avanzada; Atención Primaria de Salud; Lepra; Enseñanza en la salud.

1. Introduction

It is well known that Primary Health Care (PHC) advocates the increase in the number of Advanced Practice Nurses in Latin America, with the aim of increasing access to health services and universal coverage to respond to the health needs of the population. The discussion on the incorporation of Advanced Practice Nurses in Brazil and Latin America began in 2013 with the launch by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) of the resolution Human resources for health Opas (2018). Currently, there are greater obstacles to providing and obtaining universal access to health. This reflects the need to expand health providers in order to offer universality, integrality and equity in an efficient, fundamental and effective way, thus putting the principles of the Unified Health System (SUS) into execution Opas (2018); Rewa T et al (2019).

In 2014, the PAHO Executive Committee proposed a Strategic Plan for Universal Health Coverage, focusing on the quality of services, encouraging the Ministries of Health of Latin American countries to train human resources capable of working in PHC. Nursing stands out in the face of human resources, as it is inserted worldwide in PHC Opas (2018); Cofen, (2018); Dumas et al (2020). It is important to clarify that the Federal Council of Nursing (COFEN), the Brazilian Nursing Association (ABEN), the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) and the Ministry of Health (MS) signed an agreement to implement advanced practice in Brazil, this fact is very important for direct/indirect assistance to the population, with the objective of reducing morbidity and mortality, especially among the most vulnerable Cofen (2021).

With regard to Advanced Nursing Practice, Primary Health Care and Leprosy, in mapping the actions of these practices, nurses have Municipal Assistance Protocols that allow them to work in Public Health Policy programs, such as Leprosy, in addition to accompanying the user during treatment and after discharge Brasil (2018). Leprosy presents itself as an

infectious disease of a chronic nature, of extreme relevance to public health in the Brazilian context, has exclusive actions aimed at its elimination at the national level through the Leprosy Control Program, present in the PHC, in a peculiar way in the Family and Community Health Teams, serving the population through preventive and curative actions Andrade et al (2018). According to the actions developed by nurses in PHC with potential for advanced nursing practice, their autonomy emphasizes the diagnosis of leprosy according to the clinic and the epidemiological profile of the user, decision-making and clinical practice, educational actions to control the disease Rewa (2018).

Study objective: relate, through the theoretical-scientific framework, the Advanced Practice of Nursing, Primary Health Care and Leprosy in Brazil. Guiding question of the study: what theoretical-methodological contributions are available on Advanced Nursing Practice, Primary Health Care and Leprosy in Brazil?

2. Methodology

Descriptive study, integrative review, research technique that gathers and synthesizes relevant publications on a topic in a systematic and orderly manner. Review phases: identification of the theme and definition of the guiding question; literature search and selection strategy; categorization, evaluation and analysis of studies and presentation of the review Amaral et al (2017); Doricci e Lorenzi-Guanaes (2021).

The theoretical-methodological survey was carried out by crossing the following Health Sciences Descriptors: with theoretical-scientific survey carried out by crossing the Health Sciences Descriptors: Advanced Practice Nursing, Primary Health Care and Leprosy; Boolean operators applied AND and OR. By the VHL, in the SciELO Virtual Library and in the LILACS Database, data collection date: march 2022.

After applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria, 16 studies remained to be analyzed in the research. The stage of presentation and synthesis of the results was carried out clearly through tables, using some variables among them: title, objective, authors and year of publication. It is important to clarify that ethical and legal precepts were preserved throughout the entire methodological course, followed by basic bioethics references such as: autonomy, non-maleficence, beneficence and justice Barchifontaine e Trindade (2019).

During the search, initially, we sought to know the degree of relevance of the production belonging to each isolated descriptor and later, the descriptors were crossed with the help of boolean operators: [tw:(Advanced Nursing Practice)] AND [tw:(Primary Health Care)] AND [tw:(Leprosy)] OR [tw:(Health Teaching)], resulting in studies found and filtered to meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria as shown in (Table 1).

Table 1: Flow diagram of identification and selection of publications.

Advanced Nursing Practice (n=1.720)
Primary Health Care (n=79.816)
Leprosy (n=33.240)
Publications located in the bases with the Boolean operators (n=1.720)
Posts excluded by filtering (n=1.620)
Publications selected for evaluation (n=100)
Duplicate posts deleted (n=22)
Publications excluded for not answering the guiding question (n=62)
Publications included in the study in question (n=16)

Source: Study data (2022).

The stage of presentation and synthesis of the results was carried out clearly through tables, using some variables among them: title, objective, authors and year of publication. It is important to clarify that ethical and legal precepts were preserved Barchifontaine and Trindade (2019).

3. Results and Discussion

The structural search in the databases with the crossing of descriptors using Boolean operators resulted in 1,720 scientific publications, however, when the inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied to the methodological approach, most publications were excluded, leaving only 78 eligible in full, which were selected for evaluation. At the end of reading these publications, only 16 were chosen to compose this study.

Among the selected studies, it is clear that most were published in the year 2021, followed by the year 2018. With regard to the objectives of the selected studies, it is about knowing the concept of Advanced Nursing Practice, identifying the current state of regulation, training and practice of advanced practice nurses and reflecting on the role of this practice in PHC and Leprosy in Brazil.

Although the existence of advanced nursing practice has been discussed and developed in different countries since the 1970s, its discussion in Latin America is very current and growing. In view of the research, two categories were formulated on the topic: Advanced Nursing Practice in Brazil and Primary Health Care and Leprosy in Brazil.

3.1 Advanced Nursing Practice in Brazil

In some states of Brazil, nursing practices underwent major changes with the implementation of the Family Health Strategy, as can be seen in the statistics of Nursing care for patients with leprosy. Enabling access to primary care and recognition by users, however, there was no change in the hegemonic model, not even a linear team was constituted for this purpose Ramalho and Leme (2016).

Among the innovations in thinking, apprehending and acting, the Advanced Nursing Practice stands out, where international databases present research on nurses who perform advanced functions. Brazil participated in an important meeting at the headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in Washington, to discuss advanced nursing practices, based on Canadian and American experiences, implemented since the 1960s in these countries Ramalho & Leme (2016).

The Pan American Health Organization discusses strategies for the implementation of advanced nursing practice in Brazil, focusing on Primary Health Care (PHC) and Leprosy, aiming to expand the scope of nurses' practices, developing and deepening interprofessional work in care primary Ramalho and Leme (2016). The social construction of the extended clinic also occurs in the daily work of nurses, in the relationship with other professionals, and aims to respond to the health needs of the population, with regard to the implementation of advanced practices in Brazil Rodrigues et al (2015).

Brazil is one of the countries that has the greatest aptitude and preparation to adopt Advanced Nursing Practice for the care of leprosy, due to the great vastness and diversity of postgraduate courses in stricto sensu and lato sensu nursing Bezerril et al (2014). Advanced practice nursing is a term used to describe a variety of possible roles for nurses working at an advanced level of practice. Historically, these functions evolved informally from the need to improve access to health services for at-risk, disadvantaged populations and in underserved rural communities in remote locations, including treatment for leprosy, for example Oldenburger et al (2017); Peduzzi (2017).

3.2 Primary Health Care and Leprosy in Brazil

Primary Health Care emphasizes health promotion and disease prevention practices, seeking a good resolution of the

most common problems of the population, at low cost, prioritizing several specific areas of action, such as leprosy control, a disease that is increasingly becoming a public health problem and a challenge for health professionals and managers due to its high prevalence and the negative impact it causes on the health of the population Ramos et al (2022); Oliveira et al (2018).

With regard to Advanced Nursing Practice in PHC and in leprosy care, the competence of expanded clinical practice involves actions of direct assistance to individuals, families and communities, based on health needs, ways of living and working in the epidemiological profile of these groups. The Nurse's decision-making autonomy, in complex situations, refers to advanced diagnostic assessment and strategic care planning for cases based on the best methodological evidence, as an advanced practice act for leprosy Barcelos et al (2021).

Comprehensive care involves articulated actions with other team members and the health services network, integrating nursing care actions with advanced practices of leprosy patients in primary health care in Brazil. Worldwide, PHC reform policy priorities have driven the introduction of Advanced Practice Nursing in many countries such as the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, and Australia Neto et al (2018); Aguirre-Boza et al (2019).

Expanding the scope of the practice of health professionals, especially nurses, is recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a way to reduce public health problems, specifically for this study, with regard to the contextualization of leprosy. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) recognizes the implementation of advanced nursing practices as an effective strategy to expand access and coverage to health in Latin American and Caribbean countries, seeking to bring nurses' autonomy, in primary care, to advance in the treatment and cure of leprosy Honig et al (2019); Hämel et al (2020); Espinoza & Toso (2021); Dezoti et al (2021).

The Improvement of Advanced Nursing Practice, implementation of its autonomy in decision-making in AB, diagnosis, among other professional aspects, would stimulate the time of providing services and care to people who need care and would subsidize a more technical and punctual action. Such discussions raise the need to strengthen health surveillance actions, especially by Nursing professionals in a qualified way for decision-making, articulated to the municipality's reference center, for example Olimpio et al (2018); Lopes et al (2021).

Due to the magnitude of leprosy as a Brazilian public health problem, the National Leprosy Control Program of the Ministry of Health recommended that disease control actions be decentralized to Primary Health Care (PHC) and coordinated by the Family Health Strategy (FHS), in order to facilitate the population's access to services, guarantee the quality of care and reduce the endemic disease. For the conclusion and outcome of this topic in the research, it was evident the importance of implementing the Advanced Nursing Practice for people living with leprosy in the Brazilian reality, with regard to primary health care and its difficulties Alves et al (2021); Pereira and Oliveira (2018).

4. Conclusion

This study achieved its objective, relating through the theoretical-scientific framework the Advanced Practice of Nursing, Primary Health Care (PHC) and Leprosy in Brazil, demonstrating that international experiences have irrevocable potential to improve the population's access to health services.

The improvement of five skills was scientifically evidenced: expanded clinical practice, greater autonomy for decision-making, comprehensive care, reference in the training of Nursing professionals and development of health research. In the context of PHC and Leprosy in Brazil, advanced practice must be explained and applied not only in the context of SUS cost reduction, as international experiences show that nurses who have the autonomy to carry out this practice are able to respond in a adequate, critical and assertive to the health needs of individuals in the context of leprosy, for example, in PHC.

Finally, through this research, we hope that new studies can emerge so that the deepening of this theme becomes increasingly relevant, which will support the scientific community, for the elaboration of future research and scientific articles

on this issue-problem addressed.

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