SITUATION ANALYSIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF KANGAROO MOTHER CARE IN BRAZILIAN PUBLIC MATERNITY HOSPITALS

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Summary

Objective: To analyze the situation of the Kangaroo Mother Care Method (KMCM) in public hospitals with professionals trained by the Project on Strengthening and Dissemination of Kangaroo Method (PSDKM) of Ministry of Health (MH) in Brazil. This was a descriptive and analytical study with cross-sectional design performed with secondary data obtained from the Ministry of Health. These data refer to information collected from the Departments of Health of each State in Brasil and hospitals that had their professionals trained by MH. The universe of study consisted of eight hospitals that make up the five National Reference Centers (NRC), 27 State Reference Maternities (SRM) and 132 other maternities distributed throughout the country. The parameters used for evaluation were the Norms of the Humanized Care for the Low Birth Weight Newborn - Kangaroo Method of Brazilian’s MH. In the period 2009-2013, the PSDKM trained 1,227 professionals across the country. 62.50% of eight units that make up the five National Reference Centers fully deployed all the steps of the KMCM, 87.5% have a milk bank and all stimulate Kangaroo position, lactation and the free mother's stay in the unit. 66.66% of all 27 SRM had the three steps implemented, 96.30% allowed free access for mothers, 66.67% encouraged the kangaroo position and 81.48% encouraged breastfeeding. Among other maternities 57.53% had implemented the three stages of KMCM, 79.45% allowed free mother's stay, 75.34% promoted Kangaroo position, 53.42% have a breast milk bank and 84.93% stimulated mother’s lactation. The inefficiency of the health service management, problems in teamwork process, parents’ socioeconomic problems and the lack of adequate infrastructure were identified as major difficulties to implement the method. The study demonstrates that even after five years of PSDKM, there were still institutional challenges concerning the full implementation of this method in many hospitals, especially those that are not considered as reference to the KMCM.