

Design, implementation and evaluation of a training program for maternal and child care health workers (Work in progress)

Trinidad Rodríguez^{1,2,3*}, Macarena Zulueta², Javiera Contreras², Sumeet Sodhi³

1. Family Medicine Department, Pontificia Universidad Católica, Chile
2. Ancora UC Health Innovation Center, Pontificia Universidad Católica, Chile
3. Besroure Centre, College of Family Physicians of Canada

Introduction: The Ancora UC Health Innovation Center (CISAUC) aims to transform the care for maternal and infant populations at four primary care centers by implementing a person-centered system of care that addresses health care challenges in the areas of chronic diseases and mental health through early interventions. The current care strategy lacks consistent incorporation of evidence-based recommendations, resulting in significant gaps between knowledge and practice. This leads to fragmented and problem-focused healthcare delivery, negatively impacting quality, effectiveness, and efficiency.

To address these challenges, a training program was developed for healthcare staff. The program focused on core elements such as comprehensive and patient-centered care, stepped care and risk stratification, child development, nurturing care, toxic stress, trauma-informed care, protective factors, and resilience.

Methods: A multidisciplinary three-module course was co-developed with representatives from medical, nursing, psychology, and social work schools. The course was designed to be delivered through a dual-learning approach. It included online components with video capsules, interactive materials, and application activities, as well as in-person workshops on intervention tools. Pre and post-module surveys were used to assess participants' perception of knowledge, attitudes, practice, and confidence. A separate questionnaire evaluated participants' experience and satisfaction with the course.

Results: Approximately 200 health facility staff, including clinical, non-clinical, and support personnel, will receive training on Module 1, a two-hour online course, that will cover the new care model, child development, and trauma-informed care. Module 2, a 6-hour dual-learning course, will be provided to clinical staff serving maternal and infant populations. Nurses and midwives will complete the 22-hour training program in Module 3, focusing on case management and intervention tools. The sessions are planned for August and September 2023. Results from the evaluations will be presented once available.

Discussion: This capacity-building initiative offers an opportunity to train health facility staff in relevant topics crucial for implementing the new care strategy. It equips them with the latest evidence-based knowledge to deliver improved person-centered care for pregnant women and children. The dual-learning approach makes the program relatively low cost, facilitating sustainability if the strategy is scaled up nationwide.