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Knowledge, attitudes and practice of primary care professionals about the approach of alcohol: preliminary results

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Objectives: To evaluate the knowledge, attitudes and practices of physicians and nurses of Primary Care (PC) in the implementation of preventive interventions of the Programme of Preventive Activities and Health Promotion (PAPPS)¹ regarding to patients with excessive alcohol consumption.

Methods: A descriptive, cross-sectional observational study conducted in health centers of the Spanish National Health System (SNS).

Results: from January 2014 to December 2014, 1116 health professionals (86% graduates in medicine and 14% nursing graduates) have completed an online survey, with an average age of 45 years (SD 9.3). 81% of all claims to know the recommendations described in the PAPPS, although only 67% of them recognized they had received specific training in the management of patient with excessive alcohol consumption in the last 5 years. 65% of professionals assured to do a systematic examination quantifying alcohol consumption through questionnaires, with a follow-up rate after detection of 72%.

Conclusions: our preliminary results indicate that the level of specific training that health professionals have received in the last 5 years about the approach to patients with excessive alcohol consumption is low. The diffusion of the recommendations outlined by the PAPPS on the clinical practice that health professionals have to perform in primary care setting about alcohol consumption detection and management is critical and is a priority for the Spanish health authorities.