

# Websymposium as a tool in the training process of health professionals in the context of the pandemic in Minas Gerais

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## Abstract

*The Covid-19 pandemic required the adaptation of many activities within healthcare organizations. Given the imperative of social distancing as a practice to contain the pandemic, the need to increase telehealth activities with the potential to fight the pandemic was highlighted, including teleeducation. This experience report aims to present an assessment of the knowledge of participants in two web symposiums held by a telehealth center, before and after watching the event.*

**Keywords:** Telehealth; Teleeducation; Covid-19

## Resumen

*Websimposios como herramienta en el proceso de formación de profesionales de la salud en el contexto de la pandemia en Minas Gerais.*

*La pandemia de Covid-19 exigió la adecuación de muchas actividades dentro de las organizaciones de salud. Ante el imperativo del distanciamiento social como práctica para contener la pandemia, se destacó la necesidad de incrementar las actividades de telesalud con potencial para enfrentar la pandemia, incluyendo la teleeducación. Este relato de experiencia tiene como objetivo presentar la evaluación del conocimiento de los participantes de dos simposios web realizados por un centro de telesalud, antes y después de asistir al evento.*

**Palabras clave:** Telesalud; Teleeducación; Covid-19

## Resumo

*Websimpósios como ferramenta no processo formativo dos profissionais de saúde no âmbito da pandemia em Minas Gerais.*

*A pandemia da Covid-19 demandou a adequação de muitas atividades dentro das organizações de saúde. Diante do imperativo do distanciamento social enquanto prática para a contenção da pandemia, salientou-se a necessidade de incrementar as atividades de telessaúde com potencial de enfrentamento à pandemia, dentre elas, a teleeducação. Esse relato de experiência visa apresentar a avaliação do conhecimento dos participantes de dois websimpósios realizados por um núcleo de telessaúde, antes e depois de assistirem ao evento.*

**Palavras-chave:** Telessaúde; Teleeducação; Covid-19

## Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has required the adequacy of conduct and practices in health organizations, especially in the need for social distancing as a strategy to contain the disease<sup>1</sup>. Some studies show different applications of telehealth tools in the context of Covid-19, in which we can highlight teleeducation activities, which enable the training of health professionals by remote means. These activities add content aimed at learning and continuous updating in various thematic axes, made possible through educational practices mediated by Information and

Communication Technologies (ICTs)<sup>1,2</sup>. There are different formats of teleeducation activities, such as web lectures, web symposia, and distance learning courses.

This experience report seeks to present the assessment of knowledge resulting from two web symposia promoted by the Telehealth Center of the Faculty of Medicine of UFMG (NUTEL FM/UFMG) in partnership with the Minas Gerais State Health Department (SES MG) and other relevant educational institutions. The main theme of these activities is the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic within the scope of Primary Health Care (PHC) in the Unified Health

System (SUS), seeking to contribute to the process of updating and training health professionals. Currently, there is a wide range of web conferences focused on the pandemic, promoted by institutions from various parts of Brazil<sup>3,4,5</sup>. The activities were available on the

channel of the Telehealth Center of Minas Gerais (Núcleo de Telessaúde de Minas Gerais) – UFMG, where all the teleeducation activities produced by the center from 2021 are published (Figure 1).

Figure 1 – Interface of the Telehealth Center of Minas Gerais (Núcleo de Telessaúde de Minas Gerais) – UFMG on Youtube.



Source: Channel of the Telehealth Center of Minas Gerais – UFMG, available on YouTube (2022)<sup>6</sup>

## Method

The web seminars were built from the collaboration between NUTEL, the Minas Gerais State Health Department, and important Minas Gerais universities. Initially, the selection of themes, guests, and general definitions of the viability of the event was made. The activities were publicized through social media and email. The web symposia were broadcast via YouTube. The participants' presence was registered through a form, containing questions related to the self-assessment of knowledge. The data were structured to be presented contemplating: themes, period of performance, quantitative views on YouTube

per day of the event, subscribers, participating municipalities, and the assessment of knowledge about the topic before and after each day of the event.

## Results

The 1st web symposium “Covid-19 Pandemic in APS” had 208 subscribers and the 2nd “Follow-up of users after Covid-19 infection in PHC” had 606. There were two questions on the attendance list that enabled us to compare how the participant thought their knowledge of the topic was, before and after the event, on a Likert scale. There was an improvement in the assessment of knowledge on the subject after each of the days of the event.

Table 1 - Websymposium 1st half of 2021. Covid-19 Pandemic in PHC: Current situation and challenges, by theme, number of views, and registration of subscribers

Subtheme	Views
Epidemiological situation of Covid 19, current scenario, and challenges in the immunization process in Brazil	352
The impacts and challenges of the work process pandemic in PHC	235
Challenges of structuring PHC in Brazil	364
Total of views	951
Total registration of subscribers	208

Table 2 – Websymposium 2nd half of 2021. Monitoring users after Covid-19 infection in PHC: Main challenges, by theme, number of views, and registration of subscribers

Subtheme	Views
PHC organization in the fight against Covid-19	1090
Updated clinical definitions and case and contact monitoring	629
Monitoring of the most vulnerable population	511
Integration of PHC and VE	504
User approach after Covid-19 infection	336
Total of views	3070
Total registration of subscribers	606

We noticed that participation was more expressive in the second web symposium, both in the number of views and in the number of subscribers. Although the number of views is not enough to verify the public's adherence to the event, it is a comparison with the reach obtained in other events promoted by the nucleus, revealing the interest of people who follow the channel. The participation certificate is only awarded to people who obtain minimum participation in 70% of the web seminar days. It is considered that the visibility of the 1st web symposium contributed to the greater participation in the 2nd one. Another relevant factor is the experience acquired by the organizing team in the face of learning from the 1st event and proposing improvements.

The transmissions were carried out by the Stream Yard platform, connected live on the channel of the Telehealth Center of Minas Gerais – UFMG on YouTube. Viewers could participate live, sending questions and comments via chat. At the end of each day of the event, the moderator passed on the doubts received by the chat for discussion by the speakers. This tool allowed the synchronous interaction of the

participants with the speakers, enriching the proposed discussions.

In the fields of completion of the attendance list were issues related to the profession, municipality of origin, and general evaluation of the event. The participation of more than 250 municipalities, mostly from Minas Gerais, considering every day of the event was recorded. In addition, two questions allowed us to compare how the participant thought it was his knowledge of the subject, before and after the event.

The first question was, “How do you evaluate your knowledge of the topic before the event?” The second was “How do you evaluate your knowledge about the topic after the event?” These questions could be answered by multiple choice at 5 levels: very satisfied, satisfied, regular, dissatisfied, and very dissatisfied. Table 3 shows the proportion of these answers on each day of the event.

Due to the insignificant number of responses in the levels “Dissatisfied” and “Very Dissatisfied”, these responses were aggregated into a single level “Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied”.

Table 3 - Self-assessment of knowledge on the subject, before and after the event: Websymposium 1st Semester of 2021 - Covid-19 Pandemic in PHC: Current situation and challenges

Knowledge self-assessment	Day 1		Day 2		Day 3	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Very satisfied	6%	44%	7%	61%	10%	48%
Satisfied	46%	52%	53%	37%	43%	50%
Regular	42%	0%	35%	0%	48%	3%
Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied	6%	4%	5%	2%	0%	0%

From the data presented in Table 3, a better assessment of knowledge on the topic after the event is evidenced. The positive percentage variation of the “Very Satisfied” level is very significant on all event days. We also observed that many participants stop

considering their knowledge as “Average” and start to consider it as “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” after the event. The same behavior is observed in Table 4, referring to the web symposium of the 2nd semester of 2021.

Table 4 - Self-assessment of knowledge on the subject, before and after the event: Websymposium 2nd semester of 2021 - Monitoring users after Covid-19 infection in PHC: Main challenges

Knowledge self-assessment	Day 1		Day 2		Day 3		Day 4		Day 5	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Very satisfied	12%	46%	20%	53%	22%	56%	19%	52%	18%	62%
Satisfied	54%	48%	54%	43%	40%	40%	41%	43%	48%	34%
Regular	32%	2%	21%	1%	33%	2%	37%	2%	28%	1%
Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied	2%	3%	5%	2%	6%	2%	2%	0%	5%	3%

As these are events in which the target audience is health professionals and students, we assumed that most of them already have some knowledge about the topic addressed. In this sense, we suggest that the “Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied” level had a low number of responses due to this target audience profile.

### Conclusion

Therefore, the potential of teleeducation activities during the pandemic is evident, as a tool for updating and training PHC health professionals. It remains clear that teleeducation tools collaborate with the continuing education of health professionals, providing access to content relevant to the fight against the pandemic in their area of activity. Faced with the need for social distancing, the possibility of distance learning becomes even more essential.

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