

Self assessment of strengths, weaknesses and self confidence of primary care physicians taking care of rheumatic diseases Autoevaluación de fortalezas, debilidades y confianza de los médicos de atención primaria en el abordaje de enfermedades reumatológicas

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Background: Rheumatologic diseases are common and frequently managed by primary care physicians. **Aim:** To assess strengths, weaknesses and self confidence of primary care physicians in the management of rheumatic diseases. **Material and methods:** A self assessment and anonymous questionnaire was mailed to primary care physicians of two Chilean regions. Using a 10 points Likert scale, they were asked about personal interest, undergraduate training, continuous medical education, availability of medical literature, complementary laboratory tests and consultation with a rheumatologist. **Medical skills, knowledge, therapeutic approach and performance of rheumatologic procedures were evaluated under the item confidence.** **Results:** Three hundred forty seven out of 763 physicians (45%) answered the questionnaire. Their age range extended from 25 to 75 years, 59% were male, 58% were Chilean and 74% worked in the Metropolitan region. The worst evaluated parameters were availability of literature with