

Perceived difficulties among primary care physicians for the prescription of insulin for diabetic patients

Dificultades en la prescripción racional de insulina: La percepción de los médicos tratantes de enfermos diabéticos de atención primaria de salud

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Background: Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus is not always treated successfully, in part due to the difficulties perceived by the medical community about the use of insulin. **Aim:** To identify the constraints perceived by primary care physicians (PCPs) in the prescription and use of insulin.

Material and Methods: Six PCPs were subjected to a semi-structured interview about self-perceived management difficulties, behaviors and beliefs on the use of insulin among diabetics. According to their responses a questionnaire about the subject was devised and PCPs were invited by e-mail to answer it. **Results:** There were 88 replies and 48% of respondents recognized to have management deficiencies in at least one aspect of insulin prescription. The most common deficiencies were determining the type of insulin and treatment of complications. The perceived difficulties were lack of training (58.0%), lack of medical hours (46.6%), lack of communication with specialists (46.6%), lack of reactive strips for capillary