

SUBSIDISING WOUND TREATMENT MATERIALS IN PORTUGAL: AWARENESS OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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Aims: To assess the perception of health-care professionals with regard to subsidising wound treatment materials and the type of material.

Methods: Implementation of a previously validated questionnaire at a multi-disciplinary conference, with 10 questions covering - in addition to the demographic characteristics of the surveyed population - areas linked to the type of dressing material that they usually use to treat wounds.

Results: With regard to the material available every day for wound treatment, the most widely used was hydrocolloid (98.9%), followed by hydrogel (97.8%), tulle gras dressings (95.6%) and alginate, and antimicrobial dressings (87.9%). The sample was 100% in favour of product subsidisation, which should be 50% (38.3%). With regard to which type of materials should be subsidised, 65.9% agreed with subsidising compression-therapy bandages, foams, advanced wound-treatment materials, hydrocolloids, and transparent films.

Conclusion: There is a consensus among health-care professionals that wound treatment material should be subsidised. The level of this subsidisation is still difficult to establish but the way is open.