

Repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on worker health surveillance in basic health units

Repercusiones de la pandemia de COVID-19 en la vigilancia de la salud de los trabajadores en las unidades básicas de salud

Repercussões da pandemia de COVID-19 na vigilância em saúde do trabalhador em unidades básicas de saúde

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Abstract

The aim was to analyze the profile of workers' health notification events present in the literature carried out in UBS and the possible repercussions of the pandemic period. Integrative review carried out from August to November 2021, in the following databases: SCOPUS, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, Web of Science, Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences and Scientific Electronic Library Online. Using the descriptors Notification of Work Accidents, Notification of Diseases, Family Health Strategy, Primary Health Care. 2,681 articles were found and, after thorough reading, 20 studies were selected. The diseases that affected professionals during the pandemic stood out, in which Burnout Syndrome predominated. The main issue identified in the study was the psychological commitment, as part of the professionals, especially health professionals, subjected to so much scarcity of resources and extreme demands.

Descriptors: Health Surveillance; Occupational Health; COVID-19; Pandemics; Basic Health Unit.

Resumén

El objetivo fue analizar el perfil de los eventos de notificación de salud de los trabajadores presentes en la literatura realizada en la UBS y las posibles repercusiones del período de pandemia. Revisión integradora realizada de agosto a noviembre de 2021, en las siguientes bases de datos: SCOPUS, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, Web of Science, Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences y Scientific Electronic Library Online. Utilizando los descriptores Notificación de Accidentes de Trabajo, Notificación de Enfermedades, Estrategia de Salud de la Familia, Atención Primaria de Salud. Se encontraron 2.681 artículos y, tras una lectura exhaustiva, se seleccionaron 20 estudios. Se destacaron las enfermedades que afectaron a los profesionales durante la pandemia, en las que predominó el Síndrome de Burnout. El principal problema identificado en el estudio fue el compromiso psicológico, como parte de los profesionales, especialmente de los profesionales de la salud, sometidos a tanta escasez de recursos y exigencias extremas.

Descriptores: Vigilancia de la Salud; Salud del Trabajador; COVID-19; Pandemias; Unidad Básica de Salud.

Resumo

Objetivou-se analisar o perfil de eventos de notificação de saúde do trabalhador presentes na literatura realizadas em UBS e as possíveis repercussões do período pandêmico. Revisão integrativa realizada de agosto a novembro de 2021, nas seguintes bases de dados: SCOPUS, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, Web of Science, Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde e Scientific Electronic Library Online. Utilizando os descritores Notificação de Acidentes de Trabalho, Notificação de doenças, Estratégia Saúde da Família, Atenção Primária à Saúde. Foram encontrados 2.681 artigos e, após leitura minuciosa, selecionados 20 estudos. Destacaram-se as doenças que acometeram profissionais durante a pandemia, no qual predominou a Síndrome de Burnout. A principal questão identificada no estudo foi o comprometimento psicológico, como parte dos profissionais, principalmente dos profissionais de saúde, submetidos a tanta escassez de recursos e exigências extremas.

Descritores: Vigilância em Saúde; Saúde do Trabalhador; COVID-19; Pandemias; Unidade Básica de Saúde.



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Introduction

Occupational Health Surveillance (VISAT) is understood as an integral part of all health surveillance systems that aim to guarantee health promotion, through continuous and systematic action planning, enabling the analysis of the determining and conditioning factors that permeate the work environment and intervene with assertive sanitary practices that minimize health problems¹.

Aligned with the principles of the Unified Health System (SUS), the principles of VISAT are: universality; completeness; participation of the community, workers and social control; equity; precaution; hierarchy; decentralization; interdisciplinarity; intervention-research and transformative character².

The participation of primary care in VISAT is of paramount importance, especially in the current pandemic scenario, as it will carry out the situational diagnosis, which, in turn, allows the mapping, recognition and identification of existing work activities in the territory, the social profile, potential risks and work situations.

It is essential that health teams know the work or occupation of the user-worker and incorporate this knowledge into promotion, protection and surveillance, assistance and rehabilitation actions in the SUS care network. In this way, data collection allows the emergence of indicators that direct sanitary actions aimed at each location and type of work. It is worth mentioning the importance of identifying the risks to which the worker is exposed, such as: physical, chemical, mechanical, biological and psychosocial, in order to facilitate the understanding of the work x illness process and favor the notification².

One of the practices inherent to health professionals related to VISAT is the feeding of the National System of Diseases and Notification (SINAN). This is related to public health situations and events that are considered compulsory reporting such as accidents at work with exposure to biological material and those accidents at work resulting in serious injuries, fatal injuries or involving minors³.

Other injuries such as injuries, such as: burns, musculoskeletal problems, mental suffering, skin cancer, among many other effects, may be associated with harmful working conditions, but they are not necessarily subject to compulsory notification⁴.

Notwithstanding this, underreporting is understood as the act of not correctly notifying events considered to be compulsory notifiable. The scientific literature presents the present reality of underreporting, a practice that affects all professional classes, including the health team itself.

Studies identify that the possible causes of underreporting of accidents at work, exposed by nursing professionals, are related to the lack of information about the risks, epidemiological and legal factors, in addition to the submission of the working conditions imposed by the employer^{5,6}.

The problem of underreporting in health increased its magnitude with the onset of the pandemic, as basic health units began to focus all attention on suspected or diagnosed cases of COVID-19, which potentially culminates

in the neglect of some actions such as the very worker health surveillance, mainly represented by underreporting of work accidents⁷.

In this sense, the study becomes relevant due to the need to address the issue in the daily life of the basic health unit, with the aim of highlighting the importance of reporting work accidents, promoting comprehensive care and training health professionals to its realization. In addition, it also considers the existence of few literatures that address the theme, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, the present study aims to analyze the profile of workers' health notification events present in the literature carried out in UBS and the possible repercussions of the pandemic period.

The research is justified by acting as a resident in the basic health unit, where the fragility of the worker care system is notorious. When arriving with a complaint, the possibility of reversing the negative effect of the symptom is offered, but the work practice is not evidenced, which can be related to what affects the individual, thus generating a false resolution of the problem. In this sense, underreporting of accidents at work, which are part of the daily life of the health professional, make it impossible to fully monitor the individual, in order to intervene assertively and guarantee patient safety in all their contexts.

Methodology

Integrative literature review (RIL), in which it is a method of systematic analysis of existing literature on the investigated topic, which allows the researcher a broad approach to collecting results and better practical applicability⁸.

The realization of the RIL is linked to the fulfillment of six steps to be mentioned: Identification of the research question to start the review; establishment of inclusion and exclusion criteria; categorization of studies; analysis of studies included in the review; discussion of results; synthesis of constructed knowledge. Thus, based on following the steps mentioned above, the RIL shows the best accessibility on the subject, since it brings together the analysis of specific studies and allows the discussion with all the evidence available in the literature⁹.

As the first step of the RIL, it is necessary to outline the research question, which in this investigation is: What is the panorama of the notifiable diseases, especially of workers' health, in Primary Care?

Inclusion criteria were defined: publications available online in article format, in English, Portuguese and Spanish. As exclusion criteria: publications that are based on theoretical essays or literature reviews.

In addition, as support for carrying out the research, the Boolean phrase constructed from the articulation between the descriptors was defined as a search strategy: (("Notification of Occupational Accidents") OR ("Notification of Diseases")) AND (("Family Health Strategy") OR ("Primary Health Care"). It should be noted that the search was carried out in English, using the equivalent synonyms in the Medical Subject Headings, thus forming the following sentence: (("Occupational Accidents Registry ") OR ("Disease

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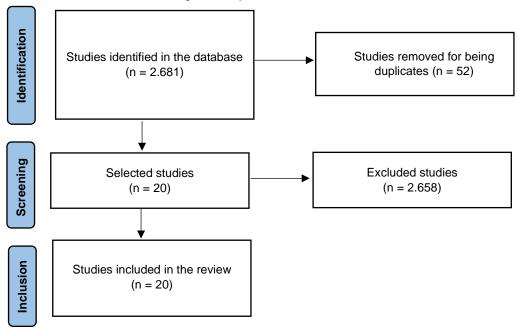
Notification")) AND (("Family Health Strategy") OR ("Primary Health Care")). The search took place in the following databases: SCOPUS, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Web of Science (WoS), Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences (LILACS) and Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO).

The definition of the relevant studies to be analyzed was done in a critical and descriptive way, based on the literature that fit the inclusion and exclusion criteria,

respecting the ethical and legal criteria and that respond to the guiding question.

From the performance of the literature analysis, a synoptic table will be built, in order to facilitate the visualization of the presentation of the results, which allows better applicability of the discussions. The table will include the title of the work, authors, year of publication, injuries reported in the APS, research objective and study recommendations. Figure 1 illustrates the study search and selection flowchart.

Figure 1. Study search and selection flowchart. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil, 2021



Results

The 2,681 publications were found, where from the exclusion of duplicate articles and those that did not meet the inclusion criteria selected for this study. Thus, the analysis provided the selection of 20 articles displayed in the synoptic table, which met the established specifications. Among the selected articles, it was observed that only two

dealt with notifications about COVID-19, two reported Tuberculosis, one dealt with influenza, one addressed glaucoma, two dealt with musculoskeletal complaints, eleven dealt with on the Burnout Syndrome and 4 addressed notifications related to stress, anxiety and depression. Chart 1 presents the summary of the main results.

Chart 1. Summary of results. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil, 2021

Study title, year	Grievances	Purpose of research	Study recommendations
	reported in the		
	APS		
Para onde foi toda a gripe? O	Severe Acute	Describe the decrease in activity	Interventions used to limit person-to-person transmission of
impacto do COVID-19 na circulação	Respiratory	of influenza and other respiratory	SARS-CoV-2 are the same as those that would be
da gripe e outros vírus respiratórios,	Syndrome	pathogens in Australia and the	recommended in an influenza pandemic and therefore should
Austrália, março a setembro de	Coronavirus 2	measures that likely contributed	be expected to also limit the spread of seasonal influenza.
2020 - 2020	(SARS-CoV-2)	to their decline.	
	and Influenza.		
Tendências na notificação e	Tuberculosis.	Analyze trends in reporting rates	It is necessary to address groups at risk of poor treatment
mortalidade da tuberculose e		and treatment success rates, as	outcomes. To prevent loss to follow-up and mortality and to
fatores associados aos resultados		well as identify predictors of	achieve better adherence to treatment, case management
do tratamento na Sérvia, 2005 a		treatment outcomes.	must be improved to provide patient-centered holistic
2015 - 2020			intersectoral interventions and support during treatment.
COVID-19 como doença	COVID-19.	Demonstrate the extent to which	The COVID-19 disease can occur as an occupational disease or
ocupacional ou acidente de		professional groups (doctors and	an accident at work. According to the German list of
trabalho: Considerações sobre a		nurses) are covered by	occupational diseases, recognition as an occupational disease
cobertura do seguro e obrigação de		occupational accident insurance.	3101 requires the occupational exposure of an insured person
apresentação de relatórios no			who has been exposed to an increased risk of infection
seguro legal de acidentes - 2021			compared to the general population as a result of his
			occupational activity.



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Identificação de microrregiões com casos de tuberculose subnotificados no Brasil, 2012-2014 - 2020	Tuberculosis.	Identify Brazilian microregions with underreported tuberculosis cases, from 2012 to 2014.	Venancio CGSF, Faria MGA, Koopmans FF Ecological study with data from the Notifiable Diseases Information System (Sinan). The indirect estimator of the proportion of notified cases (EIPCN) was calculated as the mean between the proportion of cases that adhered to the treatment and the proportion of those that underwent bacilloscopy. Negative binomial regression was used to investigate evidence of underreporting in selected microregions through the EIPCN.
Conscientização sobre o manejo do glaucoma entre médicos em Riade: um estudo transversal multicêntrico - 2020	Glaucoma.	Determine knowledge and management, as well as examination and referral practices related to glaucoma among physicians in primary care centers and secondary hospitals in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.	Glaucoma is an irreversible chronic disease that damages the optic nerve. Glaucoma-related knowledge and skills are extremely important for frontline clinicians.
Burnout entre médicos de família por gênero e idade - 2020	Burnout syndrome.	Assess whether associations of burnout in family physicians based on age and gender remained constant.	Using data from 2017 to 2018, we found that female GPs, especially those under 40 years of age, experience burnout at higher rates than men. This has implications for the primary care workforce and suggests ways for policymakers and health systems administrators to more effectively address burnout in their organizations.
Indicadores de Burnout no Local de Trabalho entre Médicos, Clínicos de Prática Avançada e Funcionários em Práticas de Atenção Primária de Pequeno e Médio Porte - 2020	Burnout syndrome.	Examine whether individual behaviors and attitudes towards major disruptive changes have an effect on burnout in the workplace.	The increasing prevalence of burnout among physicians and other healthcare professionals has become a major concern in the United States. Identifying indicators of burnout can help reduce negative consequences such as turnover, lost productivity and adverse health behaviors.
Síndrome de Burnout em Gestores de Estratégia de Saúde da Família - 2020	Burnout syndrome.	Analyzed the Burnout Syndrome (BS) among managers of the Family Health Strategy (ESF) in the city of Rio de Janeiro and its associations with factors that influence the presence / absence of BS among these professionals.	This article analyzed the Burnout Syndrome (BS) among managers of the Family Health Strategy (ESF) in the city of Rio de Janeiro and its associations between the factors that influence the presence/absence of BS in these professionals. Descriptive in nature, he used a questionnaire, consisting of two parts.
Associação de empatia e estresse ocupacional com burnout entre profissionais de atenção primária à saúde - 2020	Burnout syndrome.	Investigate the association of empathy and occupational stress with burnout in PHC professionals.	There are indications that the burnout syndrome affects primary health care (PHC) professionals. The aim of this study was to investigate the association of empathy and occupational stress with burnout in PHC professionals. A total of 348 workers completed an online assessment including occupational stress, empathy and burnout scales.
Exposição ocupacional, estado psicológico e qualidade de vida em médicos de atendimento em ambiente ambiental - 2021	syndrome and Depression.	Study the characteristics of the psychological state, professional burnout syndrome (PBSS) and quality of life (QoL) in therapists who work in polyclinic outpatient public health services.	A cross-sectional study was conducted on the basis of 16 randomly selected urban polyclinics in Moscow, which included general practitioners (district physicians, general practitioners and cardiologists).
Satisfação, estresse e burnout de enfermeiros gerentes e enfermeiros assistenciais na Atenção Básica à Saúde - 2021	Burnout syndrome.	Correlate job satisfaction indicators, occupational stress factors and professional exhaustion among manager nurses and clinical nurses in Primary Health Care.	Descriptive and exploratory field study carried out in 45 Primary Health Care units in Brazil. The following instruments were used for data collection: Sociodemographic Questionnaire, Work Stress Scale, Burnout Characterization Scale and Job Satisfaction Questionnaire.
Burnout e diferenças no estado de saúde entre profissionais de saúde primários em Portugal - 2021	Burnout syndrome.	Find determinants of individual health status and burnout, to find possible differences between different types of health facilities, different urbanization areas and different administrative regions, and to see if there are differences between GPs and nurses.	This article focuses on two indicators that can be considered proxies for the well-being of individuals: self-rated health and the intensity of burnout. There is little research relating these concepts to the type of primary health care setting, its urbanization density and the region.
Burnout ocupacional, estado psicológico e qualidade de vida em médicos da atenção primária que trabalham em regime de ambulatório - 2021	Burnout syndrome.	Study the characteristics of the psychological state, professional burnout syndrome (PBSS) and quality of life (QoL) in therapists who work in polyclinic outpatient public health services.	Study the characteristics of the psychological state, professional burnout syndrome (PBSS) and quality of life (QoL) in therapists who work in polyclinic outpatient public health services. Material and methods A cross-sectional study was conducted on the basis of 16 randomly selected urban polyclinics in Moscow, which included general practitioners (district physicians, general practitioners and cardiologists).
Prevalência da síndrome de burnout e seus fatores de risco relacionados entre médicos que trabalham em centros de atenção primária à saúde do Ministério da Saúde, região de Al Ahsa, Arábia Saudita, 2018-2019 - 2020	Burnout syndrome.	Calculate the prevalence of BS and its related risk factors among physicians from primary health care centers (PHC) of the Ministry of Health (MOH, Al Ahsa, Saudi Arabia.	Burnout syndrome (BS) is a relatively common occupational problem. It is a psychological and behavioral syndrome described by three dimensions: emotional exhaustion (EE); depersonalization (DP); and low personal fulfillment (PA).



Prevalência e fatores associados à síndrome de burnout entre profissionais de enfermagem da atenção primária à saúde: um estudo transversal – 2020	Burnout syndrome.	Evaluate the prevalence and factors associated with Burnout Syndrome (BS) in Primary Health Care (PHC) nursing professionals in the state of Bahia.	Multicenter, cross-sectional population-based study, carried out in a cluster sample of 1,125 PHC nursing professionals during the years 2017 and 2018.
Estresse relacionado ao trabalho entre trabalhadores da atenção primária à saúde - 2020	Stress.	Investigate the state of stress in primary health care workers in order to identify the factors that most affect stress and the groups that are particularly susceptible to stress.	There are data on increased levels of stress in primary health care workers. The objective of this article was to investigate the state of stress in primary health care workers, in order to identify the factors that most affect stress and the groups that are particularly susceptible to stress.
Burnout entre enfermeiras que trabalham em centros de atenção primária à saúde na Arábia Saudita, um estudo multicêntrico -2020	Burnout syndrome.	Determine the prevalence and factors associated with burnout among nurses in primary health care centers in Saudi Arabia.	Burnout is a common psychosocial phenomenon among nursing. Has been attributed to prolonged exposure to workplace stress.
Qualidade de vida e sintomas osteomusculares em trabalhadores da atenção primária à saúde – 2020	Musculoskeletal disease.	Assess the quality of life and musculoskeletal symptoms in primary care workers.	Descriptive, correlational and cross-sectional study with 85 workers using the WHOQOL-Bref and the Nordic Osteomuscular Symptoms Questionnaire.
Danos à saúde dos trabalhadores de enfermagem da sala de vacinas – 2020	Musculoskeletal symptoms and psychological harm.	Analyze the damage to health related to the work of nursing professionals in vaccination rooms.	Analytical cross-sectional study carried out in 39 vaccination rooms in a Primary Health Care Unit in the city of Rio de Janeiro.
O conflito armado e os impactos na saúde dos trabalhadores que atuam na Estratégia de Saúde da Família na cidade do Rio de Janeiro - 2020	Stress, anguish, anxiety.	Analyze the affect that such conflicts cause on the health of these workers.	With the expansion of the Family Health Strategy in Rio de Janeiro, health teams inserted in territories permeated by armed conflicts have become vulnerable to urban violence.

Discussion

In view of the results found, considering the almost 2 years of the pandemic, it can be inferred that the low number of notifications of COVID-19 in PHC workers present underreported cases, since the disease in question generated the pandemic context that we are experiencing today. Therefore, the high number of infected people makes it possible to understand that this number does not correspond to the total number of notifications generated or cases reported correctly and, therefore, were not mentioned. When considering the exposure to which the working class has been submitted, we see that the fragility of care for this population has become more evident in the context of the pandemic, especially frontline professionals, in which the limitation of resources and security of these professionals are perpetuated through constant problems, such as work overload and difficulties in accessing PPE.

Another issue found, addressed by one of the studies, was contamination by influenza, in which it presented a low number of exposed cases, parallel to this we had the mitigation measures of COVID-19 that may have directly impacted the spread of respiratory diseases, culminating in reducing the number of notifications. The drastic reduction in international travel and the mandatory 14-day quarantine in hotels upon entry - which is long enough and strict enough for respiratory infections to resolve - as well as flu circulation around the world, has limited the introduction of potential new viruses. . It is worth noting that the fact that they do not have enough or more cases than in recent years, generating drastically lower numbers, does not mean that the pathology is not a problem, despite the relationship between the protective measures used in the pandemic and the circulation of respiratory pathogens, it is also necessary to explore an

important issue regarding the capture and correct surveillance of certain signs and symptoms¹⁰.

In addition to this issue, it is observed that among the selected studies 2 its was about Tuberculosis, an important public health issue, which requires constant investigation, monitoring of cases and risk groups, especially at a time when COVID-19 has become become as evident as a respiratory infection, which can mask the discovery of new cases of tuberculosis. It is argued that to prevent loss to follow-up and mortality and to achieve better adherence to treatment, case management must be improved in order to provide patient-centered holistic intersectoral interventions and support during treatment. In this way, workers exposed to all these measures need access to strategies that promote their care and allow the continuity of the work performed¹¹.

Another important factor for the working class is exposure to musculoskeletal symptoms, which despite being continuous complaints present in the day-to-day life of the PHC, whether in health workers themselves or other professionals who seek care on free demand.

"In addition, the way professionals perform or the way work is imposed on them can trigger musculoskeletal morbidities. When the work process is carried out strenuously, without breaks, with repetitive, stereotyped movements and incorrect postures, symptoms appear without a specific clinical entity, but with aspects related to pain, paresthesia, fatigue, loss of strength and range of motion. movement" 12:2.

Burnout Syndrome was addressed in 11 publications and 4 addressed issues related to stress and anxiety. This question denotes how much the routine that individuals undergo during their work activities can harm mental health, even seriously. Professionals have become increasingly fragile in relation to mental health, a reality that has been seen from individuals who ended up entering the labor market, to those who have been there longer. In this



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context, one can reflect on the scenario in which the PHC health worker is inserted, a scenario that is already vulnerable due to extreme political issues, difficulty in accessing the minimum necessary resources, insufficient human resources, extremely overloaded professionals, who need to perform numerous tasks, often required at the last minute, in addition to the high repressed demand that has overcrowded the units.

> "However, it has been possible to perceive various situations of stress and dissatisfaction among Primary Health Care (PHC) workers in different professional categories, which point to little attention to their own health conditions. In fact, PHC units, as they are the main gateway to the Unified Health System (SUS), are stressful and tension-laden environments for health teams and users12:2".

It is necessary to reflect on the impacts generated in the life of the professional and the user, since the assistance generated in the midst of this chaotic scenario impedes the quality of life of both, as well as implies much more complex issues, since the assistance and the idea of PHC are based on principles and guidelines established in the PNAB and SUS, which end up not being used with quality and generate a breach of bond, an extremely important point for care.

With regard to the nursing worker, inserted in the PHC context, there is the most evident issue regarding the innumerable weaknesses that involve this profession and that can be closely related to the increase in psychological pathologies and absenteeism rates, in addition to the own risk to the patient in the provision of a health service by a professional who does not have his health preserved by the work environment or responsible institution. Despite the profession having been positively mentioned countless times during the fight against the pandemic, the idea of a lower class and the devaluation actions that promote this illness are still perpetuated. This gets worse as the repressed demand returns much higher than expected, in which the pandemic is still a present reality, and thus these workers who are already fundamental, have become more evident with the main function of combat that is immunization,

therefore, these professionals are demanded massively more than other professionals, but without the same appreciation or the minimum work structure 13,14.

Study¹⁵ says that it is necessary to direct actions to improve levels of job satisfaction and prevent occupational stress and manifestations of professional exhaustion in PHC nurses, caused by the demands of tasks and specific skills for nursing care to the population. In this sense, one should not fail to reflect on the needs for immediate changes to relieve these workers, who are already sick, but one can minimize the damage and promote a better quality for individuals, so that they are not conditioned to submit to diseases psychological as part of the development of their work activity.

Conclusion

The study carried out through the selected publications denotes the involvement of notifiable diseases in workers, who may have been contaminated from exposure in their work routine. In the current pandemic scenario, in which world society is experiencing an atypical reality in its almost two years, a greater number of notifications about the relationship between workers and COVID-19 were expected, however, this was not the issue. The main issue identified in the study was psychological impairment, as part of professionals, especially health professionals, who are subjected to so much scarcity of resources and extreme demands.

Parallel to this, there is the nursing professional, who plays a fundamental role in combating the pandemic, but assuming multiple functions, multiple positions, with little or no appreciation, limited resources, restricted rights, which still does not even have a floor established salary and has been fighting for minimum working conditions and dignity for years. From this discussion, it is understood that despite the emergence of numerous acute conditions and the difficulties of correctly notifying professional illness, diseases such as Burnout Syndrome will always be a present reality, combined with exhaustion and exhaustion, which can have serious consequences for the individual.

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