# CUIDADO É FUNDAMENTAL

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RESEARCH

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# Suporte básico de vida: capacitação de agentes penitenciários federais para atuação em situações de urgência/emergência

Basic life support: training of federal penitentiary agents for action in situations of emergency

Soporte vital básico: formación para federal guardias de la prisión acción en situaciones de emergencia/emergency

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#### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The study aimed to expose the practice of an activity of extension performed in order to train agents of the Federal Penitentiary of Mossoró/RN. **Methods:** For implementation of Basic Life Support (BLS) in urgency/emergency situations. The activity took place from November 2012 to September 2013, coordinated by a professor, with the participation of 09 students of the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Rio Grande do Norte. **Results:** This work allowed the correctional officers to improve previous notions about the theme, as well as acquire new knowledge in view of the possibility to apply them in their daily professional life and also personal. **Conclusion:** In this sense, the project objectives were included in the progress was evidence during the stages of teaching and learning.

Descriptors: Nursing; Basic Life Support; Training; Correctional officers.

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#### RESUMO

**Objetivo:** Expor a prática de uma atividade de extensão realizada no intuito capacitar os agentes penitenciários da Penitenciária Federal de Mossoró/RN. **Métodos:** Para aplicação do Suporte Básico de Vida (SBV) em situações de urgência/emergência. A atividade aconteceu no período de novembro de 2012 a setembro de 2013, coordenado por um docente, com a participação de 09 discentes da Faculdade de Enfermagem da Universidade do Estado do Rio Grande do Norte. **Resultados:** A realização deste trabalho permitiu aos agentes penitenciários aperfeiçoar noções prévias acerca da temática, bem como adquirir novos conhecimentos, tendo em vista a possibilidade de aplicá-los no seu cotidiano no âmbito profissional, como também pessoal. **Conclusão**: Nesse sentido, os objetivos do projeto foram contemplados na medida em que foram evidenciados os avanços durante as etapas do ensino-aprendizagem.

**Descritores:** Enfermagem; Suporte Básico de Vida; Capacitação; Agentes Penitenciários.

#### RESUMEN

**Objetivo:** El estudio tuvo como objetivo exponer la práctica de una extensión de la actividad que se realiza con el fin de capacitar a los oficiales correccionales de la Penitenciaría Federal de Mossoró / RN. **Métodos:** Para la implementación de Soporte Vital Básico (SVB) en situaciones de urgencia/emergencia. La actividad se llevó a cabo a partir de noviembre 2012 a septiembre 2013, coordinado por un profesor, con la participación de 09 estudiantes de la Facultad de Enfermería de la Universidad de Río Grande do Norte. **Resultados:** Este trabajo permitió a los oficiales correccionales mejorarnociones previas sobre el tema, así como adquirir nuevos conocimientos, teniendo encuenta la posibilidad de aplicar los en su vida diaria en el profesional, sino también personal. **Conclusión:** En este sentido, se incluyeron los objetivos del proyecto en que el progreso era evidente durante las etapas de la enseñanza y ela prendizaje.

**Descriptores:** Enfermería; Soporte Vital Básico; Capacidad; Oficiales correccionales.

### INTRODUCTION

The terminology of trauma in the area of health admits several meanings, all of which are related to unanticipated and undesirable events that, in a more or less violent manner, affect individuals involved in them, causing them some kind of injury or damage. Thus, traumatic injuries are disturbances caused suddenly by a physical agent of etiology, nature, and very varied and unexpected extensions.<sup>1</sup>

Contemporary society is constantly confronted with news of grievances that until the last century could have involved science fiction. Issues such as the September 11 disasters, attacks on schools and natural disasters destroying entire cities are seen as real and recurrent in today's world. Therefore, Basic Life Support (SBV) emerges as an important means for the recovery of health, referring to the temporary and immediate care of a person who is suddenly hurt or sick.<sup>2</sup>

Thus, the way people react in emergency situations before the arrival of medical help in most cases determines how the victims will recover and, in extreme cases, can mean the difference between life and death. In this context, there is an increasing pressure on the adoption of emergency services models that, by their promptness, precision and competence, are also paramount for security professionals, such as prison officers, who are crucial for raising safety indicators throughout the country.<sup>2</sup>

The overcrowding of cells, their precariousness and insalubriousness make prisons an environment conducive to the proliferation of epidemics and disease contagion, in which all these structural factors, as well as poor food for prisoners, their sedentary lifestyle, drug use, lack of hygiene and all the lugubrity of the prison, that cause that the prisoner who entered there in a healthy condition, does not leave without being affected by an illness or with its physical resistance and fragile health, also corroborating so that the violence is propagated , increasing the rate of accidents within the prison system.<sup>3</sup>

The training of penitentiary agents, who are not part of any specific group in the health area, to work in the care of victims of violence within the federal penitentiary was foreseen in view of the life-threatening potential of detainees and of the agents themselves in the exercise of its function and the delay until the arrival of the specialized relief service, given the location of the prison, which can take from 15 to 30 minutes, essential time for the maintenance of a life. It is prudent to have a group of professionals trained to act in the face of a need in the daily life of their work.

The Federal Penitentiary of Mossoró/RN was inaugurated in 2010 under strong protest from Mossoro society, at the time the claims were directed at the insecurity that would devastate the municipality as a whole. The penitentiary is located near the city, between Mossoró and Baraúnas/RN, with capacity for 300 victims of high dangerousness and, for this reason, suffers from the risk of imminent violence, even if all inmates remain without direct communication.

Therefore, this project justifies itself as relevant as it will materialize in the training of volunteer penitentiary agents to act in disasters and accidents with one or multiple victims in the Federal Penitentiary of Mossoró, collaborating with the formation and solidifying emergency relief, which can be provided at any time and to any trauma victim, especially the victims of major accidents and accidents.

The study is also relevant because it represents a crucial theme in the health and safety sector, however, the lack of research in this area was observed, which instigated the researchers in the study, as a way to increase knowledge and share ideas and Experiences during this period.

For representing a significant contingent within the prison system and providing services together with the security sector, also being responsible for the monitoring and surveillance of prisoners in the premises of the unit.<sup>4</sup>The study aimed to expose the practice of an extension activity carried out in order to train the correctional agents of the Federal Penitentiary of Mossoró/RN to apply Basic Life Support (SBV) in emergency situations.

# METHODS

The project was developed in the Federal Penitentiary of Mossoró, State of Rio Grande do Norte, from November 2012 to September 2013, directed to the penitentiary agents of this institution, coordinated by a professor and with the participation of 09 students from the Faculty of Nursing (FAEN) of the University of the State of Rio Grande do Norte (UERN) selected through a public notice, having as collaborators a nurse and an occupational therapist, responsible for the health sector of the Federal Prison.

The proposal was prepared after a previous visit to the Federal Penitentiary, which, in contact with the health team, reported some needs to be worked on in order to improve the care provided to the victims of this federal institution. We chose to apply the SBV, to the detriment of the professor's research line.

After the approval of the project proposal by the Extension Office of the State University of Rio Grande do Norte (UERN), professors and students met to begin the elaboration of the contents to be taught during their application in the theoretical-practical moments in the training course, which would be developed for 60 prison officers divided into three classes.

The course was taught in loco, in the Federal Penitentiary itself, in the period of April and March in the year 2013, during Fridays. In the inaugural class, which was the first contact between the team that ministered the course and the penitentiary agents, the presentation of the project and contents that would be taught was presented, as well as the presentation of the team that would be ministering the course, with the presence of the Pro-rector of extension of the University of the State of Rio Grande do Norte -UERN, director of the federal penitentiary of Mossoró and director of the state penitentiary. At that time, there were 05 professionals who work in the State Penitentiary Mário Negócios, among them health professionals and penitentiary agents who were also receiving the course.

During the course the following contents were given: SBV, tactical APH and clinical emergencies - fainting, hemorrhaging, gagging, seizures, being divided between the students and professors, taking into account property, safety and availability to conduct the content.

For the development of the theoretical activities, a multimedia projector was used to reproduce slides, videos and images contributing to the transmission of knowledge and, for the practical moments, were used specific and inherent in the SBV practice, assisting in moments of practical simulations.

The evaluation was based on two moments in order to unveil the contribution of the course in the training of prison staff, in addition to evaluating the learning, with the application of questionnaires before and after the course ministration. The pre-test was performed before the classes with the purpose of demonstrating the previous knowledge of the agents about the subject. The post-test was applied at the end of the course in order to evaluate the contribution of the course to these penitentiary agents.

The evaluation of learning was accomplished through written tests and practical simulation, in which a critical situation with multiple victims was staged inside the penitentiary. The training course was divided into three groups with a workload of twenty hours, with an average of 20 prison officers.

### RESULTS

The accomplishment of this work enabled the students of the extension project to train prison officers of the Federal Penitentiary of Mossoró/RN for the application of SBV in emergency situations. It also allowed the agents to improve previous knowledge about the subject, as well as to acquire new knowledge, considering the possibility of applying them in their daily life in the professional scope, as well as personal.

The contents were: SBV, tactical APH and clinical emergencies -fainting, hemorrhage, gagging, seizures. These issues were defined through the needs seen in the routine of penitentiary agents. For this purpose, updated references, as well as methodological resources and specific SBV instruments were consulted, among them AMBU, Automatic External Defibrillator (DEA), bandages, simulation dummy, in order to allow better information transfer.

In the meetings held, the students of the project realized the relevance of their contribution through the participation and interest of the agents demonstrated during the discussions. In the meantime, it is worth mentioning that it has always been sought to establish a theoretical-practical relationship.

Therefore, at the beginning of the training course, pretests were carried out in order to evaluate the participants' prior knowledge. Thus, it was noticed through the pre-test that prison agents did not have sufficient knowledge to act in emergency situations, since the percentage of correctness of the questionnaire oscillated between 50-60%, a fact that was also noticed during the moments of the Lectures.

In the end, an evaluation was carried out in order to understand the prisoners' level of knowledge about the proposed theme. During the post-test, prison staff were able to achieve a remarkable percentage of 100% of correct answers in the questionnaire and a mean of 95% in the theoretical and practical tests, thus allowing the understanding that they all started from a superficial knowledge about SBV to a condition of Qualified to provide this prehospital care to victims of trauma in the scope of the State and Federal Penitentiary of Mossoró/RN, in order to provide a better prognosis in care.

## DISCUSSION

The realization of this training activity proved to be challenging for professors, students and also for correctional officers due to the dynamics characteristic of a maximum security institution, such as the Federal Penitentiary in Mossoró/RN.

In addition, difficulties were also experienced, such as the adherence and attendance of prison staff to the course and classes, since sometimes they needed to be absent from meetings to perform simulations of specific situations of their service, or for transfers or transportation of grievances.

However, the difficulties were minimized in the sense that project participants sought to maintain organized and well-articulated work with the penitentiary and all project participants, agreeing on the best days and schedules so as not to bring any prejudice or discouragement to knowledge.

The need to expand this course to other federal and state penitentiaries throughout the country was also noted, since these are also vulnerable to situations involving emergency. Thus, the application of the course is of paramount importance not only in improving the performance of the SBV of prison staff, but also in achieving greater security for the whole society.

The intentional activity allowed the students to experience experiences absent in conventional curricular structures, aiming at a broader academic formation and collaborating for integration with the professional environment and a better qualification as an individual and member of the society.

## CONCLUSION

It is understood that the training, improvement of techniques and theories for the agents about prehospital care in prison settings, such as the penitentiary, is necessary in view of the fact that the individuals who are there, both the grieving and the Workers, can be affected by various health conditions. However, a factor that is unfavorable to this is the location in which the grieving and professionals are located, since, in general, they are located in an area far from the health units, which makes it difficult to quickly remove them in cases of emergency.

Another singularity is the fact that a penitentiary is configured as a hostile space, in which manifestations such as rebellions, rescue of prisoners and other situations of this type can happen at any moment, with the possibility of occurrences and serious situations of urgency/emergency, being able to reach all that are present, agents, professionals in general and distressed.

In this way, the course was of great value, since the contents were satisfactorily taken advantage of by the participants, proving their effectiveness through the tests and simulations developed, in which the students obtained results in optimal levels of fixation and correct application of the techniques. In this sense, the objective of the course was contemplated as it was evidenced the advances during the teaching-learning stages, in which it was developed in a productive way, achieving the goal of training federal prison agents to act in the SBV in situations of urgency/emergency.

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