Humanization in Primary Health Care

Unified Health System (SUS – Sistema Único de Saúde) represents a conquest by the Brazilian people, since it consolidates health as a right of all citizens. As happen with any conquest related to citizenship, SUS is built by means of daily struggles for life conditions more compatible with our dignity as human beings, and one of the greatest challenges in its daily construction is humanization of the relationships in health care.

“A humanized SUS is one that recognizes the other as legitimate citizens entitled to rights, recognizing the value of the different subjects involved in the process of production of health”.

This sentence, which was the motto chosen as the theme of the publication of this issue of the journal O Mundo da Saúde, reveals the dimension of the challenge to be faced. Therefore, the humanization of SUS is not a mere program, but rather the focus of a global public policy, the National Policy for Humanization (PNH), known also as HumanizeSUS (HumanizaSUS). Implemented by the Ministry of Health in 2003, PNH applies to all levels of SUS, in its persistence on care and management, to implement humanization as a transversal policy in the health network.

Primary Health Care (PHC), or Basic Care (BC), consolidates the universal right to health recognized by SUS. Every Brazilian citizen has a right to being registered for receiving health care by a BC team; a team that takes on co-responsibility for the health problems and necessities, both individual and collective ones. For promoting bonding and closeness with SUS users, PHC is a space privileged for SUS humanization, but it does not mean that it has already surpassed completely this challenge. Much has been done, as show the papers included in this issue of our journal, but there still is a long way to go.

Humanizing PHC requires redirecting clinical practice and ethically preparing professionals toward an increase in the recognizance of the value users, professionals and managers have. To humanize the PHC, sensibility and ethical commitment are vital in all instances of the healthcare network, which are expressed in the organization of services so that users are really welcomed and have their health cared for and promoted.

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In this opportunity, recognizing the necessity for a constant enhancement demanded by the scientific community as regards vital aspects of the publication of a scientific journal, we are happy to announce the implementation of a new online system for submission and management of manuscripts for O Mundo da Saúde. Authors, after registering, will submit their papers in the page www.revistamundoda-saude.com.br, where they will also find all information about the Journal and instructions for submission.

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