

## PROPOSAL OF A QUALITY EVALUATION MODEL DIRECTED TO THE UNIFIED HEALTH SYSTEM

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### ABSTRACT

The evaluation of quality directs efforts to critical areas, especially when talking about public health management, which needs to be efficient to serve the population. In this sense, tools directed to quality evaluation in this sector are pertinent. The objective of this work was to propose a quality evaluation model directed to the Unified Health System, developed based on the Service Quality instrument, and considering aspects concerning the Institute of Medicine, National Health Services Evaluation Program, and the corresponding legislation. Two collection instruments were developed and statistically validated by means of the alpha coefficient for the composition of the referred model. By considering the relative importance of dimensions from the perspective of the three audiences (users, professionals, and managers), the application of the SUSSQUAL model proved to be useful for guiding managers and/or professionals interested in decision making processes, and in outlining strategies that have the qualitative elevation of public health sector attributions as their purposes.

**Keywords:** Public Health; Unified Health System; Quality Assessment; Service Quality; SUSSQUAL.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

With the current scenario of economic crisis in which Brazil finds itself, it is worth emphasizing the increased relevance of the work developed in the search for optimization of resources. In all organizations there is a need for indicators both for external evaluation and for the management process. In addition, it is necessary to draw up performance indicators that respond to the strategic objectives, printing the implementation of the organizational strategy (Vecina Neto; Malik, 2012).

Hospital organizations, in particular, have a certain procedural plurality that configures them as complex organizations and need to be seen as such. As emphasized by Vecina Neto and Malik (2012), this complexity comes from the co-existence of numerous assistance and administrative processes, simultaneous production lines, and decentralization of the decision process. Thus, it is known that the study on qualitative aspects related to the provision of services in the public health sector is relevant, since it is a complex sector. Mezomo (2001) states that this complexity is caused by a series of internal and environmental factors, which end up compromising service quality.

It is worth remembering that the legislation of the Unified Health System (Sistema Único de Saúde - SUS) regulates health as a right of all citizens and duty of the State. However, Mendes (2002) emphasizes that the system that should be unique has become plural, and today is composed of three groups: the public system, the supplementary medical care system, (referring to private plans) and the direct disbursement system. It can be inferred that this segmentation of the system occurred as a result of the inefficiency of public resources to meet the high aggregate demand of the system, which, in turn, needed to gradually migrate to other spheres of health service provision to meet its needs.

A survey conducted by the Trata Brasil Institute and the Brazilian Institute of Public Opinion and Statistics (2012) stipulated that nearly 61% of Brazilians consider health as the most problematic area in the country. This is a referendum on the national public health system, since three out of four Brazilians depend on it (Prates, 2012). According to the Federal Pharmacy Council (2015), Brazil is one of the countries with the lowest investment in public health. The data shows that the Brazilian government invests 4.7% of the Brazilian domestic product (GDP) in health, much lower than expenditures in Canada, France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, where the percentages of investment range from 7.6% to 9.0%.

In addition to underfunding, a growing number of careful users are identified with the quality of health services. In this sense, tools directed to the evaluation of quality in

this sector are pertinent. It is worth mentioning that the topic of quality of services has shown strong growth in recent decades, given its importance to the economy. There are several quality evaluation models that can be used in the services environment, but which require customization (Batalha, 2008).

Service Quality (SERVQUAL), developed by Parasuraman et al. (1988), is conceptualized by Ferreira (2015) as an instrument designed to measure the quality of service provided from customer perceptions. According to Sousa et al. (2011), SERVQUAL emerged to try to solve the following situations: revision of the studies that investigated the quality of services in the purchase of goods and services; review of the reports of the insights obtained in extensive exploratory research of quality in four service companies; development of a model of quality in services; and proposal of conditions for the development of future studies on quality.

The relevance of this study is justified by its contribution in the scientific field, since it suggests a customized quality measurement model to be applied in the sector of services offered by SUS, in order to provide advances in the scientific area and act as a method for the development of future and effective scientific research in the sector for which it is intended, which is little explored by the literature.

This study aimed to propose a quality assessment model for the services offered by SUS, based on the SERVQUAL model. To do so, it is necessary to list the uses of the SERVQUAL model in the health sector and the variations of this tool, besides developing an adapted model with aspects from the Institute of Medicine (IOM), National Program for Health Services Evaluation (Programa Nacional de Avaliação dos Serviços de Saúde - PNASS), pertinent legislations, and validate the model mathematically. IOM was chosen because it is an independent organization that deals with issues relevant to health and medicine, stimulating positive actions to the sector. The organization conducts studies and issues reports that provide impartial and qualified information to policy makers and the population (Allen Jr., 2016). PNASS is a tool to evaluate health establishments and specialized care, seeking to raise relevant indicators to be worked for improvement proposals (Brazil, 2015).

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

As for the nature of the results, this study is characterized as applied research and assumes the typology of Theoretical Conceptual Model, since it aims to promote a discussion of the literature and, starting from the conclusions drawn in conjunction with the analysis of the data collected, to develop conceptual models that result in a new theory, corroborating for the advancement of science. For the development

of the study, a sequence of activities was respected, as described in Figure 1.

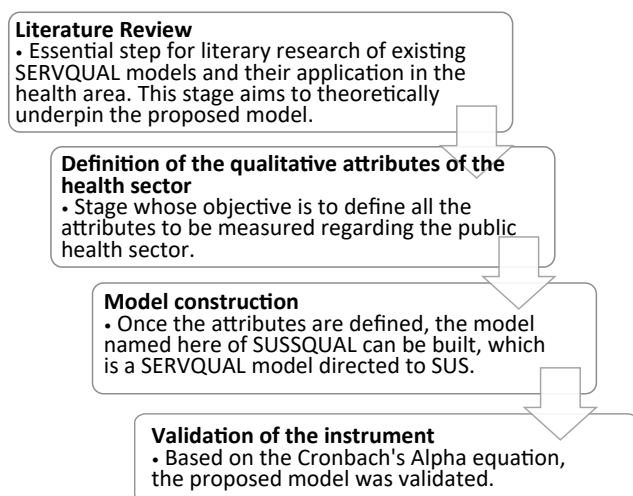


Figure 1. Research Stages

The model to be developed is a collection tool, aimed at three target audiences: users, professionals, and managers of municipal public health units. To verify if the proposed model met its objectives, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was calculated and, according to Ganga (2012), it should be submitted to three types of people: colleagues, experts from the studied organization, and target respondents. The calculation of the alpha coefficient is performed according to Equation (1):

$$\alpha = \frac{k}{k-1} \times \left[ 1 - \frac{S_i^2}{S_{soma}^2} \right] \quad (1)$$

Where:

$S_i^2$  = variance of each variable k;

$S_{soma}^2$  = sum of the variance of all variables.

The proposed model will follow the survey method, working as an instrument for collecting ordinal categorical variables, which can be defined as qualitative variables that present sorting among the collected categories by using the Likert type scale (Ganga, 2012). However, in this study, the tools used for data collection will be comprised of closed questions, with Likert type scales of importance.

For the construction of the model, a literary review was initially performed aimed to identify variants of the SERVQUAL model and the criteria considered by the IOM, PNASS and SUS legislation. This was necessary in order to identify relevant qualitative aspects to be considered in the quality evaluation in this service sector.

After this investigation, the qualitative attributes to be considered in the model for quality evaluation in the public health sector were defined. This allowed the construction of two questionnaires to apply the proposed model: a) users; b) assistance professionals and managers.

### 3. RESULTS

The following topic presents the results achieved with the development of the study until the presentation of the proposed model.

#### SERVQUAL in the health sector

In this section we will discuss uses of the SERVQUAL model for the health sector, present in the current scientific literature. For this, it was necessary to refine the publications to be addressed in this study, given the large number of such productions available for access.

For the purposes of this project, the theses and dissertations considered pertinent were those published in the period from 2013 to 2016, originating from Production Engineering courses offered by Brazilian educational institutions, and which presented the application of the SERVQUAL tool to health service providers. The search was conducted in the thesis and dissertation bank of the Commission for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES). Chart 1 presents a summary of the selected publications.

Chart 1. Publications on SERVQUAL application in health services

Typology	Authorship	Year	Title	Approach
Thesis	Guimarães Júnior DS	2016	Hierarchical and multidimensional model for the measurement of perceived quality in the supplementary health sector	Applies model derived from SERVQUAL
Thesis	Batista DA	2013	The use of the Fuzzy approach to integrate QFD and SERVQUAL tools in health services	Proposes new integrated model
Dissertation	Wegner RS	2016	Application of SERVQUAL and Analytic Hierarchy Process: Tools for improving the services provided by the University Hospital of Santa Maria/RS	Applies model in an integrated way

Dissertation	Pereira AMR	2015	Quality evaluation in public health services in a hospital using Hierarchical Analysis	Applies model derived from SERVQUAL and proposes an adapted model
Dissertation	Queiroz SFAM	2014	Study of the integration of QFD with SERVQUAL in private hospitals in Recife	Proposes and applies new model integration
Dissertation	Maia MCS	2013	An approach for assessing customer satisfaction in healthcare companies: Application of the integration of SERVQUAL, Kano and QFD models	Proposes new integrated model

After an investigation of SERVQUAL models intended for health evaluation, it was necessary to investigate the quality measurement models that emerged through variation of the SERVQUAL model. A summary of the most usual models in the literature is presented in Table 2.

**Chart 2.** Summary of SERVQUAL model variations

Model	Year	Authorship	Evaluation
SERVPERF	1992	Cronin & Taylor	Service Performance
INTQUAL	1997	Caruana & Pitt	Internal quality
HOTELQUAL	1999	Delgado et al.	Hotel Quality
HEDPERF	2006	Firdaus	Quality of higher education
PERSPERF	2009	Yildiz & Kara	Quality of higher education service
HOSPQUAL	2011	Rajaram	Quality of hospital service

HOSPQUAL arose from a research project to evaluate the quality of hospital service, with special reference to selected districts in Tamil Nadu, developed in India (Rajaram, 2011). To measure quality, the instrument follows the logic of analysis established by SERVQUAL, by collecting, through the application of questionnaires with Likert scales, the expectations, and perceptions of the consumer public, and establishing the quality indexes of the institutions. However, it inserts specific questions to hospital sectors to point out users, related to the analysis of the behavior of doctors, professionals of the assistance team, the administrative quality of hospitals, and the services provided by hospitals.

Thus, the author states that each question of SERVQUAL should be reformulated to present greater consistency with the area of the specific service to be measured, in addition to emphasizing that the model referred to does not offer a single value attributed to the quality of the service of the organization as a whole, but values related to the five dimensions addressed by it, which, according to it, would weaken the SERVQUAL model. Chart 3 presents the constitution of the HOSPQUAL tool.

**Chart 3.** Dimensions of HOSPQUAL model

DIMENSIONS	HOSPQUAL – ITEMS
TANGIBILITY	The hospital/clinic has modern looking equipment.
	The physical facilities of the hospital are visually attractive.
	The hospital/clinic staff has a clean appearance.
	The materials associated with the service (such as pamphlets or statements) are visually attractive and demonstrate qualities of an excellent hospital/clinic.
	Several activities around the hospital meet the needs of the clients.
	Convenient location.
	Services are performed at appropriate times.
RELIABILITY	The hospital staff is reliable in meeting customer service requests.
	Services are performed at the promised time.
	Services are always performed in the correct manner.
	Patients' claims are stabilized without unnecessary delays.
	Accuracy of medical expense reports.
RESPONSE	Easy reception at the hospital.
	Readiness of doctors, nurses, and staff to provide services.
	Response to customer needs.
	Hospital discharge facility.
WARRANTY	The doctors and nurses who work in the hospital are competent.
	The doctors and nurses who work in the hospital are experienced.
	Respect for patients' privacy.
	Favorable attitude towards visitors.
	Feelings of security and trust are provided by the hospital.

EMPATHY	Services are provided in a timely manner to patients.
	There is ease of communication with the doctor.
	Patient approval is obtained before testing and treatment.
	The patients' problems are considered, i.e., what they want in their hearts.
	Politeness of hospital staff.

Moreover, among the existing models aimed at quality evaluation in services, the HOSPQUAL developed by Rajaram (2011), although focused on the hospital sector, is just another application adapted from the SERVQUAL tool, in which the author customizes the issues that constitute the instruments of the model mentioned. Table 4 presents the dimensions of SERVQUAL, HOSPQUAL and those proposed by the model of this study - SUSSQUAL.

**Chart 4.** Comparison of SERVQUAL, HOSPQUAL and SUSSQUAL dimensions

	SERVQUAL	HOSPQUAL	SUSSQUAL
DIMENSIONS	Tangibility	Tangibility	Tangibility
	Reliability	Reliability	Access
	Readiness	Response	Patient Centricity
	Security	Warranty	Security
	Empathy	Empathy	Empathy
	-	-	Efficiency
	-	-	Efficacy and effectiveness
	-	-	Legislation

The HOSPQUAL model is an adaptation of SERVQUAL, therefore there are no additions or modifications of qualitative dimensions. The SUSSQUAL model, in turn, presents some additions of information. This model was elaborated with the purpose of making possible the measurement of the qualitative levels of the dimensions of the quality of the services provided by SUS to the population, in a more coherent way with the nature of the service in question.

The SUSSQUAL method adds qualitative dimensions that were disregarded in the formulation of the SERVQUAL model, proper to the health area, revered by IOM, which is responsible for formulating qualitative strategies in international health services and the PNASS Program, which is the policy responsible for auditing public health services in Brazil, besides considering constitutional legislative aspects. For the model proposal, aspects of the IOM and PNASS were considered. Chart 5 presents the relationship between their qualitative dimensions.

**Chart 5.** Relationship between the qualitative dimensions of PNASS, IOM, SERVQUAL, and SUSSQUAL.

	PNASS	IOM	SERVQUAL	SUSSQUAL
Dimensions	Block II - Technical and Logistical Support for Care Production - Criterion 7 - Infrastructure and Environment Management	-	Tangibility	Tangibility
	User Oriented Questionnaire - Item 1 - Agility in Scheduling Service - Item 2 - Agility in Service	Efficiency	-	Efficiency
	-	Effectiveness	-	Efficacy and Effectiveness
	User Oriented Questionnaire - Item 3 - Hosting - Item 8 - Humanization Marks	Centrality in the Patient	Readiness	Centrality in the Patient
	Block II - Technical and Logistical Support for Care Production - Criterion 6 - Risk Management and Patient Safety	Safety	Safety	Safety
	-	-	Empathy	Empathy
	User Oriented Questionnaire - Item 4 - Trust	Access	Reliability	Access
	-	Equity	-	Legislation

Thus, based on the concepts of SERVQUAL, IOM, PNASS, and regulatory legislation, the dimensions of SUSSQUAL defined are tangibility, efficiency, efficacy, effectiveness, patient centrality, safety, empathy, access, and legislation.

### Model proposal

Based on the references presented, the SUSSQUAL model appears with the purpose of acting as an auxiliary tool for evaluating the quality of the service provided by the establishments and/or health systems supported by SUS.

In order to proceed with the delimitation of the object to be evaluated, it is necessary to define which levels of reality one wants to study. The health field is made up by public and private institutions that develop actions of promotion, prevention, and cure oriented to the population. SUS presents its particularities, as it is a relatively new system in the country, besides being constitutional. This factor justifies the need to evaluate the service, considering the various aspects of the system and appointing various agents involved

in the dynamics of service provision. Thus, SUSSQUAL considers new dimensions and a specific approach based on the Brazilian context.

The proposed model consists of two collection instruments. The first is aimed at users and professionals working in medical assistance, in the area of public health. And the second, optional and complementary, is directed to the managers of each public health institution.

Service users, population representatives, health professionals and service managers have different objectives and perceptions regarding health services, and generally prioritize different aspects when evaluating the quality of health actions. Thus, it is necessary to democratize evaluations that intend to influence decision making processes in services, considering that the involvement of different actors amplifies the power of evaluation to unveil different aspects of the same intervention and its effects (Serapione, 1999 apud Hartz; Silva, 2005, p. 59).

The SUSSQUAL model presents the constitution of each instrument divided into three sections: questions aimed at stratifying the respondent audience; items for qualitative verification of the various dimensions that constitute the process of providing services; and, finally, the section requesting the degree of importance of each qualitative dimension from the perspective of the respondent.

The proposed instrument, however, considers only the assimilation of the perception of the exploited quality aspects, not requesting the expectations of the public in relation to the service. This fact is justified considering that quality can be defined as the “ability of the inherent characteristics of a product, system, or process to meet the needs of customers and other interested parties” (ISO/DIS 9000:2000, 1999). By stipulating the evaluation of the user’s perception on a scale from 1 to 5, it is considered that note 5 expresses that a certain aspect has been able to completely satisfy the respondent, by means of a natural comparison between what the respondent understands as a desirable level of quality in a certain aspect and the level of quality they have enjoyed. The level of perception of quality itself already points to the quality level, a factor that makes it unnecessary for the respondent to request expectations.

Thus, the tool proposed in this study is positioned as a propitious means to identify the levels of health services offered, and to continuously improve the attributions that constitute them, besides functioning as a performance control instrument for the organization that makes use of it.

The model consists of two questionnaires (users and managers) related to the public health system. The first one (Appendix 2), aimed at users, is composed of 21 questions

subdivided into the nine proposed dimensions. For the managers (Appendix 3), there are 29 items for evaluating the nine dimensions proposed by the model. The model still has an initial survey of the respondent (Appendix 1), serving as the beginning for both questionnaires. Table 1 shows the number of questions proposed in each dimension of the questionnaires.

**Table 1.** Number of questions in the questionnaires

Group	Qualitative dimensions	Questions - Users	Questions - Managers
1	Tangibility	3	7
2	Efficiency	3	4
3	Efficacy	1	1
4	Effectiveness	1	1
5	Patient Centrality	2	1
6	Security	2	2
7	Empathy	2	4
8	Access	2	2
9	Legislation	5	7

The items that constitute the tool are affirmations related to the services offered by the health unit under evaluation, for which respondents must indicate their degree of agreement on a 5-point Likert scale, in which 1 expresses total disagreement and 5 complete agreement to the affirmation. In addition, the tool requests the degree of importance of a certain qualitative dimension for the production of a service considered optimal in health. In this section, respondents should indicate how much they consider a certain aspect relevant to the provision of a service considered qualitative, on a 5-point scale of importance, where 1 expresses a criterion of no importance, 2 indicates a criterion of little importance, 3 informs a criterion indifferent to its relevance, 4 expresses a criterion of moderate importance, and 5 indicates a criterion of extreme importance.

The use of this instrument is important for the support and analysis of the results obtained in the application of the “Questionnaire users/professionals of assistance”, since it aims to direct the evaluator’s gaze on the possible causes of qualitative gaps pointed out by users and assistance professionals.

### Validation of the instrument

Statistical analysis was used to validate the construction by applying Cronbach’s alpha in order to verify the reliability rate of the instruments developed to constitute the proposed model.



To this end, we estimate the minimum quantity of questionnaires answered by the three audiences of the model proposed in this study to be statistically analyzed. Thus, a value equal to or greater than that established is used for model analysis. Questionnaires from the application in four types of health facilities are used, and two of these are health centers (US-A and US-E), a specialized clinic (US-D), a general hospital (US-C), and a specialized hospital (US-B). In each establishment, 40 users, 20 professionals, and one manager were interviewed. Table 2 presents the results of the coefficient for each investigated unit and a general coefficient for the 200 users and 100 professionals interviewed.

**Table 2.** Cronbach Alfa per health unit.

Sample	US (A)	US (B)	US (C)	US (D)	US (E)	Total
Users	0.930	0.907	0.929	0.920	0.943	0.922
Professionals	0.794	0.883	0.624	0.647	0.858	0.858

According to the classification established by Freitas and Rodrigues (2005), the indicators were between moderate, high, and very high. For these indicators, the levels are consistent for the objective proposed by the questionnaire. For the managers, a general analysis of the five interviewees was made, obtaining a coefficient of 0.971, presenting very high consistency.

#### 4. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This work aimed at developing a model that would better measure the quality of service provided by Brazilian public health institutions. The union of concepts approached in IOM, PNASS and SERVQUAL served as basis for the formulation of the proposed model and, thus, through the application, it was possible to collect data relevant to the identification of qualitative criteria to be prioritized to improve the studied system.

The literature review was carried out in order to theoretically support the study. SERVQUAL models for the health area were investigated, as well as the existing variations of this tool to build the proposed model. The concepts of IOM, PNASS and SUS legislation were integrated and acted as guidelines in the elaboration of the collection instruments, so that it could approach the items and dimensions that were closer to the reality of users and health professionals.

The model can be applied to the reality of the SUS, since it is possible to raise the local reality and direct improvements in a more effective way. The model proved to be robust and valid after being validated by means of Cronbach's alpha coefficient. Therefore, the model is consistent with the pro-

posed objectives. As a future study proposal, it is suggested an application of the model after validated for a pertinent analysis of the surveyed data.

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**Appendix 1** - Characterization of users - Questionnaire "users/professionals of assistance"

## Sex

☐ Male☐ Female

## Civil Status

☐ Single☐ Married☐ Divorced☐ Widowed☐ Stable Union

## Age Group

☐ Up to 19 years☐ From 20 to 29 years☐ From 30 to 39 years☐ From 40 to 49 years☐ From 50 to 59 years☐ 60 years and up

## Schooling

☐ Incomplete elementary school☐ Complete elementary school☐ Incomplete High School☐ Complete High School☐ Incomplete Higher Education☐ Complete Higher Education

## Family income

☐ From R\$ 600.00 to R\$ 880.00☐ From R\$ 881.00 to R\$ 1000.00☐ From R\$ 1001.00 to R\$ 1500.00☐ From R\$ 1501.00 to R\$ 2000.00☐ From R\$ 2001.00 to R\$ 3000.00☐ Above R\$ 3000.00☐ No fixed family income

## How many times have you used this Service Unit for any procedure?

☐ Only 1 time☐ From 2 to 5 times☐ From 6 to 9 times☐ From 10 to 19 times☐ From 20 to 29 times☐ Above 30 times

**Appendix 2 - Questionnaire “users / assistance professionals”**

Instructions: The following phrases refer to your perception of the service provision of this health care unit (clinic or hospital) assisted by SUS (Unified Health System). For each of the statements, indicate how much you believe the care unit reaches on a scale of 1 to 5.			Totally disagree	Partially disagree	Indifferent	Partially agree	Totally agree
Tangibility	1	The health unit has adequate equipment and conditions of use for the satisfactory exercise of its activities.	1	2	3	4	5
	2	The facilities are clean, with guiding signs and adequate air conditioning.	1	2	3	4	5
	3	The medical assistance team uses clothing and accessories (gloves, masks, etc.) in appropriate conditions for care.	1	2	3	4	5
Efficiency	4	The procedures are scheduled in a timely manner to the needs of the users.	1	2	3	4	5
	5	On the day of the procedure, the service is provided at the scheduled time (appointments, surgeries) and/or delivered on time (exams).	1	2	3	4	5
	6	The resolution of small procedures occurs in a practical way (dressings, release of medicines, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5
Efficacy	7	The service is executed correctly in the first time.	1	2	3	4	5
Effectiveness	8	The procedures have quality results at the end of the service.	1	2	3	4	5
Patient Centrality	9	The administrative team keeps users accurately informed about the procedures to be performed.	1	2	3	4	5
	10	The medical assistance team seeks to help patients and their families whenever necessary to clarify doubts regarding the user's health status.	1	2	3	4	5
Safety	11	The users feel safe when using the public health services of the health unit.	1	2	3	4	5
	12	The administrative team and the average assistance team have adequate knowledge to answer users' questions, when requested.	1	2	3	4	5
Empathy	13	The medical assistance team seeks to understand the needs of each patient, and from there, develops personalized service that meets the demands of users in the best possible way.	1	2	3	4	5
	14	The administrative team gives attention to patients and their families, through moral support and clarification of doubts.	1	2	3	4	5
Access	15	The health unit performs all the procedures so that the waiting time is reduced.	1	2	3	4	5
	16	There is agility in the care of all sectors of the health unit that have the urgency/emergency interface and/or priority care.	1	2	3	4	5
Legislation	17	There is no discrimination of any nature for the execution of services and/or scheduling to use the health services offered by the unit.	1	2	3	4	5
	18	There is equality in health care. Thus, users are assisted without prejudice or privileges of any nature, except for the priorities established by law.	1	2	3	4	5
	19	Preventive and curative services are offered in an integral manner.	1	2	3	4	5
	20	The autonomy of patients and companions is respected and encouraged.	1	2	3	4	5
	21	The care unit is attentive to disclose the types of health services offered in the institution.	1	2	3	4	5

Importance of each dimension within the public health sector							
Tangibility	1	Characteristic of what is tangible, palpable, and that can be touched (site structure, objects etc.).	1	2	3	4	5
Efficiency	2	Perform the procedures with minimum loss, through the best possible use of time, materials and human resources.	1	2	3	4	5
Efficacy	3	Perform the procedures in the correct way.	1	2	3	4	5
Effectiveness	4	Perform the procedures in the right way and with quality.	1	2	3	4	5
Patient Centrality	5	Partnership between professionals and patients to ensure that care respects the needs and preferences of patients.	1	2	3	4	5
Safety	6	The provision of service conveys the assurance that the procedure will be performed without damage to patients.	1	2	3	4	5
Empathy	7	Help and seek to understand the needs of patients by putting yourself in their place and acting according to moral principles.	1	2	3	4	5
Access	8	Waiting time and agility in the care in all sectors of the unit.	1	2	3	4	5
Legislation	9	Compliance with the law, equality, impartiality, moderation, justice, and equivalence.	1	2	3	4	5
Medical Assistance Team	Physician, nurse, nursing technician, social worker, psychologist, pharmacist, and other professionals directly involved with the provision of health care services to users.						
Administrative Team	Receptionist, attendant, administrative assistant, and other professionals who work in administrative support services.						

### Appendix 3 - Questionnaire "managers"

Note: The following statements refer to the evaluation of the health unit. For each statement, indicate how much a certain statement is consistent with the reality of the unit evaluated. Consider: 1 - totally disagree and 5 - totally agree			Totally disagree	Partially disagree	Indifferent	Partially agree	Totally agree
Tangibility	1a	The unit has medical-hospital equipment in adequate conditions for the satisfactory exercise of its activities.	1	2	3	4	5
	1b	Periodic maintenance procedures are performed on the equipment.	1	2	3	4	5
	2a	The unit has cleaning materials in quantity and conditions satisfactory for use.	1	2	3	4	5
	2b	The unit has auxiliary signage and departmental identification to help and promote user autonomy.	1	2	3	4	5
	2c	The building air conditioning is adequate, providing well-being to professionals and users.	1	2	3	4	5
	3a	The medical assistance team is oriented to wear clothing appropriate to the care environment.	1	2	3	4	5
	3b	The medical assistance team uses quantitative support materials and appropriate conditions of use for the care of users (personal protection equipment).	1	2	3	4	5

Ef- ficiency	4a	The unit uses scheduling for orderly care of users.	1	2	3	4	5
	4b	The unit does not receive frequent complaints from users about the time gap between the scheduling request and the execution of the required service.	1	2	3	4	5
	5a	On the day of the service required by users, the procedure is performed at the scheduled time (e.g., appointments, surgical procedures, etc.) and/or delivered within the established time (e.g., delivery of examination results).	1	2	3	4	5
	6a	The professionals are oriented to perform small procedures demanded in a practical way (such as: drug release).	1	2	3	4	5
Efficacy	7a	The professionals are assigned to departments according to their professional specialization, and there is no deviation from technical positions in the unit.	1	2	3	4	5
Effecti- veness	8a	The unit pays attention to the development of qualitative indicators with the users of the service, in order to identify the level of service and the satisfaction of patients and companions.	1	2	3	4	5
Patient Centra- lity	9a e 10a	Professionals are oriented to provide integral assistance to users in terms of providing technical and moral support during the various stages of service provision.	1	2	3	4	5
Safety	11a	Training is offered to the medical assistance team aimed at professional updating with regard to patient safety care.	1	2	3	4	5
	12a	The professional team (medical assistance team and care team) works in an integrated manner, allowing the flow of information in the various stages of service provision.	1	2	3	4	5
Empa- thy	13a	The medical assistance team is oriented to developing personalized care for users, although this requires more time of care.	1	2	3	4	5
	13b	The health care team is oriented about the expected demand (when it is possible to forecast) of users to be assisted in the daily workday.	1	2	3	4	5
	14a	The administrative team is oriented to provide cordial treatment to users.	1	2	3	4	5
	14b	The administrative team has the necessary technical knowledge to clarify users' doubts.	1	2	3	4	5
Access	15a	The professionals are oriented to provide less waiting time to users.	1	2	3	4	5
	16a	The professionals seek to act with agility in the sectors of the unit that have the 'urgency/emergency' interface, in a way that allows the priority flow of assistance.	1	2	3	4	5
Legisla- tion	17a	There is no discrimination of any nature for the effectiveness of care and/or scheduling to use the health services offered by the unit.	1	2	3	4	5
	18a	There is equality in health care. Thus, users are assisted without prejudice or privileges of any nature, except for the priorities established by law.	1	2	3	4	5
	19a	Preventive and curative services are offered in an integral manner.	1	2	3	4	5
	20a	The autonomy of patients and companions is respected and encouraged.	1	2	3	4	5
	21a	The service unit is attentive to disclose the types of health services offered in the institution.	1	2	3	4	5
	22a	The unit has legislative material that contains the principles and guidelines of SUS (Unified Health System), which is available to professionals working in the institution.	1	2	3	4	5
	22b	The professionals are oriented to the study of SUS regulatory norms when they begin their professional activities at the unit's service and/or start a new management.	1	2	3	4	5

Importance of each dimension for the realization of qualitative service in the public health sector							
Tangibility	1	Characteristic of what is tangible, palpable, that can be touched (site structure, objects etc.).	1	2	3	4	5
Efficiency	2	Perform the procedures with minimum loss, through the best possible use of time, materials and human resources.	1	2	3	4	5
Efficacy	3	Perform the procedures in the correct way.	1	2	3	4	5
Effectiveness	4	Perform the procedures in the right way and with quality.	1	2	3	4	5
Patient Centrality	5	Partnership between professionals and patients to ensure that care respects the needs and preferences of patients.	1	2	3	4	5
Safety	6	The provision of service conveys the assurance that the procedure will be performed without damage to patients.	1	2	3	4	5
Empathy	7	Help and seek to understand the needs of patients by putting yourself in their place and acting according to moral principles.	1	2	3	4	5
Access	8	Waiting time and agility in care in all sectors of the unit.	1	2	3	4	5
Legislation	9	Compliance with the law, equality, impartiality, moderation, justice, and equivalence.	1	2	3	4	5

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