

IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ONLINE COURSE FOR PHARMACISTS IN BRAZIL: DISSEMINATING NEW CLINICAL PRACTICES

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Background

Standards of pharmacy practice in Brazil are established and regulated by the Brazilian Federal Council of Pharmacy (CFF). In 2013, clinical pharmacy attributions were regulated, which included pharmaceutical prescription. To encourage the implementation of those attributions in Brazil, BFCP has developed a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for pharmaceutical prescription in the management of minor illnesses.

Purpose

This report aims to describe the implementation and results of the MOOC coverage.

Method

A group of invited clinical pharmacists and professors developed teaching materials and activities for a 40-hour MOOC (Figures 1 and 2).



Figure 1: Cover of the handbooks developed.

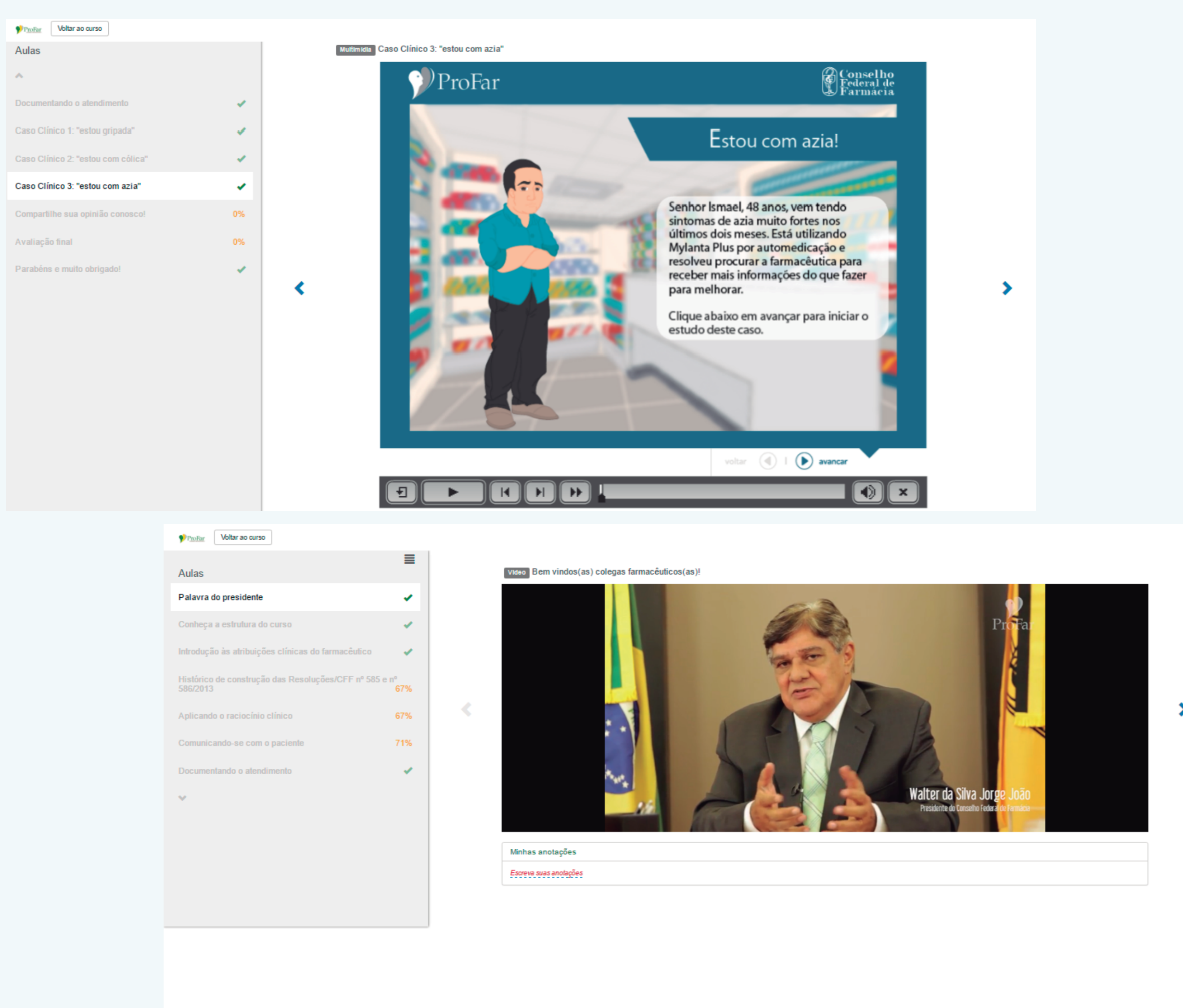


Figure 2: Print screen of the video lesson.

The learning objective was to provide the fundamentals of the clinical reasoning process for pharmaceutical prescription in the management of minor illnesses. The target audience was registered pharmacists and students enrolled in Pharmacy undergraduate courses. The MOOC was widely advertised and available for a period of 17 months.

The enrollment was free of charge. Through a digital platform (<http://profar-cff.org.br>) participants had access to the learning material of the course, which included video lessons, interactive content, handbooks in PDF and an online questionnaire. An avatar was developed to guide participants in the learning process (Figure 3). To evaluate the course coverage, we analyzed: number of participants, location data, professional areas and course completion rate.

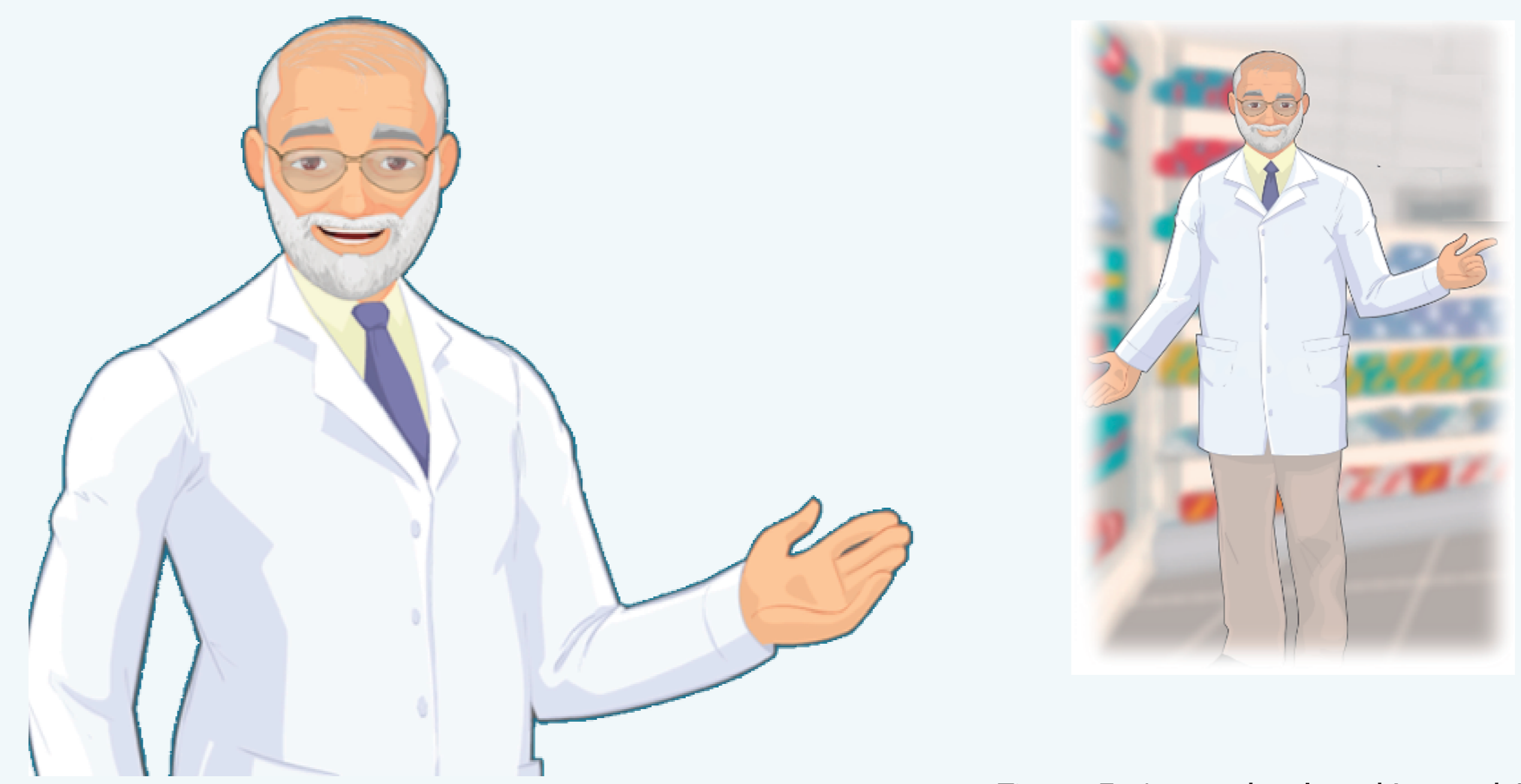


Figure 3: Avatar developed/created for the course.

Results

Out of the 210,000 Brazilian pharmacists, 18% attended the course and 3.85% of the participants were undergraduate students. All Brazilian states were reached, where North and Northeast regions stood out, presenting respectively 28.4% and 35.6% of their pharmacists enrolled in the course (Figure 4).

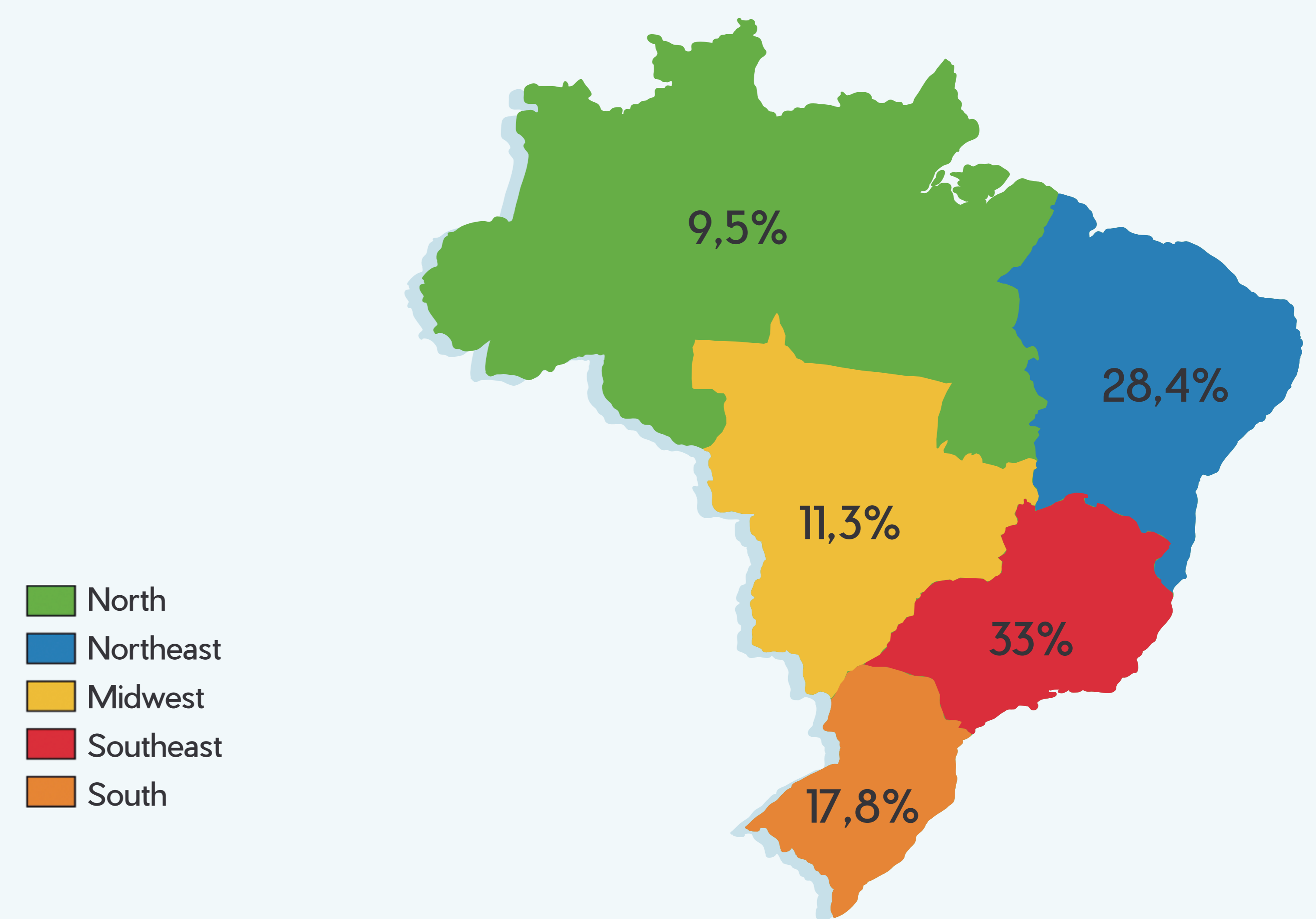


Figure 4: Distribution of participants according to geographic region

Regarding professional area, there was a significant participation of pharmacists from community pharmacies (46%), followed by hospital pharmacists (12%). The completion rate was 29%.

Conclusion

This educational strategy has had wide reach in a short period of time.

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