

ORIGINAL PAPER**A qualitative study on the Greek health professionals' role in smoking cessation during pregnancy**

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The aim of this study was to explore Greek health professionals' attitudes and perceptions regarding their role as health promoters in assisting pregnant smokers to quit smoking during their pregnancy.

Methodology: The sample consisted of 28 health care providers with a wide range of clinical experience in Greek primary health care. The data was gathered using semi-structured interviews. Some of the important topics discussed were the health professionals' awareness of sensitive and delicate issues; smoking during pregnancy, the Greek health care personnel's training on counselling and on approaching pregnant smokers, and reasons and barriers that health professionals cite for not offering advice to pregnant smokers.

Results: The study indicated that little is done in the area of health promotion and health education regarding smoking cessation during pregnancy. Various attempts by private or public services are isolated and mainly opportunistic, without offering anything important in the Greek community.

Keywords: Greek health professionals, role, smoking cessation, pregnancy.