

Management of the COVID-19 health crisis: a survey of Swiss Health authorities' response

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RATIONALE

- COVID-19 pandemic has put a lot of strain on health systems since 2020 including Swiss health authorities (HA)
- A survey was done to underline challenges / actions undertaken by HA during the first wave of pandemic
- Purpose was to improve pharmaceutical management in future health crises

CONCLUSION

- Swiss HA encountered many challenges and found quick and effective solutions
- Respondents advocate the maintaining of stockpiles at wholesalers for drugs, PPE and disinfectants
- HA desired regular practice of scenarios (simulations) to be better prepared for the future crisis

METHOD



- ✓ Survey (10 clusters) sent to
 - Swiss cantonal doctors (CD) / pharmacists (CP)
 - Federal health authorities (FHA)
- ✓ n=61

RESULTS

- ✓ 54% of response to the survey (n=33)
- ✓ 100% FHA and 60% CD/CP had internal pandemic plan before the first wave of COVID-19

DRUGS SUPPLY

See poster FIP300 Swiss hospital (HP)*

- HP encountered :
- 25% out of stock remdesivir
 - Drugs most concerned of shortage: 44% midazolam + 49% propofol

* Management of the COVID-19 health crisis: a survey in Swiss hospital pharmacies



SANITIZERS PRODUCTS

Lack of OH** for hand sanitizers (SHA) because of low governmental reserves

BUT: Planning reliability of it was satisfying by 72% of FHA / 47% of all respondents

**ethanol

- ✓ To ↓ problems of drug shortage,
 - HA had purchased drugs quickly in the market by Swiss Armed Forces Pharmacy and drugs were delivered to CP to distribute them
 - HP performed additional storage of drugs (56%) and applied strict follow-up of the market (72%) *

- ✓ Quick response of HA has allowed to
 - Facilitate manufacturing of biocidal products by the pharmacies
 - Improve the offer of SHA (WHO formula) from chemical company
 - Supply SHA to the pharmacies

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- Professional expertise was frequently not consulted to purchase PPE
- Responsibility of this material was unclear between the different departments of authorities
- PPE for health workers was assessed by the cantons mostly by email (69%) or phone (38%)
- Distribution was performed mainly by watering can principle (56%) or e-shop (31%)

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