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

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- COVID-19 pandemic has put a lot of strain on health systems since 2020
- 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

Swiss HA encountered many challenges and found quick and effective solutions

- Respondents advocate the maintaining of stockpiles at wholesalers for drugs, PPE and disinfectants
- desired regular practice scenarios (simulations) to be better prepared for the future crisis

including Swiss health authorities (HA)

- health crises

METHOD



✓ Survey (10 clusters) send to

See poster FIP300 Swiss hospital (HP)*

25% out of stock remdesivir

44% midazolam + 49% propofol

- Swiss cantonal doctors (CD) / pharmacists (CP)
- Federal health authorities (FHA)

✓ n=61

DRUGS SUPPLY

RESULTS



54% of response to the survey (n=33)

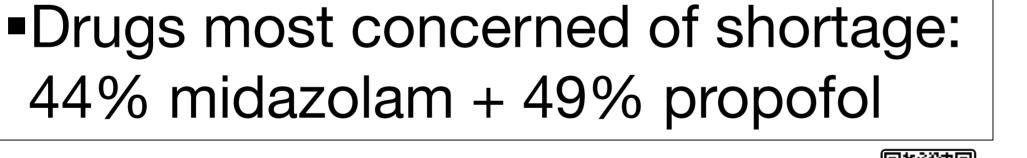


100% FHA and **60%** CD/CP had internal pandemic plan before the first wave of COVID-19



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%) *



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

HP encountered:



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



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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