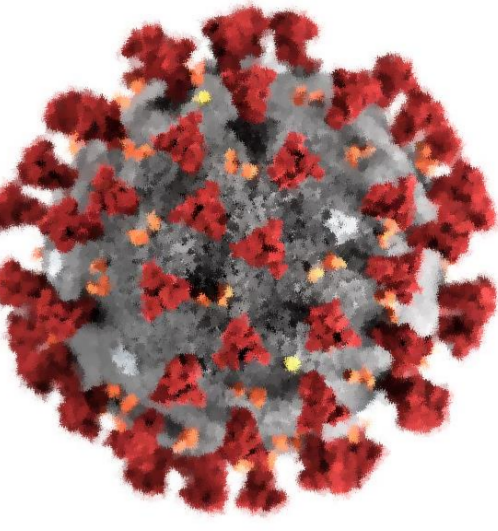


First wave of COVID-19 in Swiss hospital pharmacies



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

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Objectives

To improve the management of future health crises by reviewing actions of Swiss hospital pharmacies (HP) during the first wave of COVID-19.

Methods

Electronic survey organized into 11 clusters was sent out by e-mail to the head of Swiss HP affiliated to the GSASA. Data were collected between 19 May 2020 and 19 June 2020 with reminders at 2, 3 and 4 weeks.

Hospital Pharmacies characteristics

43 answers (66%) out of 65 questionnaires

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the participants

	n (%)
Linguistic area	German 34 (79)
	French 8 (18)
	Italian 1 (2)
Staff working in the hospital pharmacy	<50 35 (81)
	50-100 5 (12)
	>100 3 (7)
Sites supplied by the hospital pharmacy	1-5 31 (72)
	6-10 7 (16)
	>11 5 (12)

Results

Drugs mainly used in COVID-19 units

51% of HP created drug lists with :

Therapeutic class	n (%)
COVID-19 treatments	22 (83)
Sedatives	21 (81)
Anesthetics	20 (77)
Antibiotics	19 (73)
Curares	15 (58)
Electrolytes	11 (42)
Perfusions	10 (38)
Laxatives	4 (15)

Remdesivir ran out of stock in 26% of HP. Two drugs generated most concern of shortages:

- Propofol (49% of HP)
- Midazolam (44% of HP)

Drugs management in COVID-19 units

Drug availability in COVID-19 wards was managed by :

- Increasing existing stocks (54% of HP)
- Creating extra storage space (51% of HP)

Management of the crisis

41% of HP had standard operating procedure or pandemic plan previously available.

Hygiene

47% of HP implemented specific hygiene measures (e.g. disinfection of surfaces).

77% of HP experimented problems procuring hand sanitizers and among them 53% manufactured it.

Human resources management

28% of HP introduced debriefings in teams
59% of HP had to change staff:
From <10% (21%) to >50% of change (3%)

Support for medical and care team

Specific documents were drawn up to respond to medical needs regarding the following aspects :

- Drug administration (29% of HP)
- Drug preparation (29% of HP)
- Treatment choices (24% of HP)

Conclusions

- The COVID-19 pandemic presented a big challenge for Swiss HP, highlighting their critical role in such crisis.
- Managing and facing complex pandemic response requires a crisis management plan, communication, staff flexibility, teamwork, and inter-professional collaboration.

