

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

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## RATIONALE

- The COVID-19 pandemic has put a lot of strain on health systems since 2020
- A review of the Swiss hospital pharmacies (HP) actions undertaken and challenges experienced during the first wave was performed to improve pharmaceutical management of future health crises

## CONCLUSION

- HP have faced many challenges related to the pandemic and found quick and effective solutions
- The pandemic underlining the critical role of HP in such crisis
- Managing complex pandemic response requires disaster plan, communication, staff flexibility and collaboration

## METHOD



- ✓ Survey was organized into 11 clusters
- ✓ Sent to Swiss Head of HP (n=65)
- ✓ 66% responses

## RESULTS

### HUMAN RESOURCES



- 59% of HP's staff had to change their jobs during first wave
  - from <10% of change (21%)
  - to >50% of change (3%)

### DRUGS USE IN INTENSIVE AND COVID UNITS



	Intensive care Unit	COVID Unit
To support physicians	24	17
To support nurses	20	10
To restock drugs	22	20
To dispense drugs	2	5
	%	%

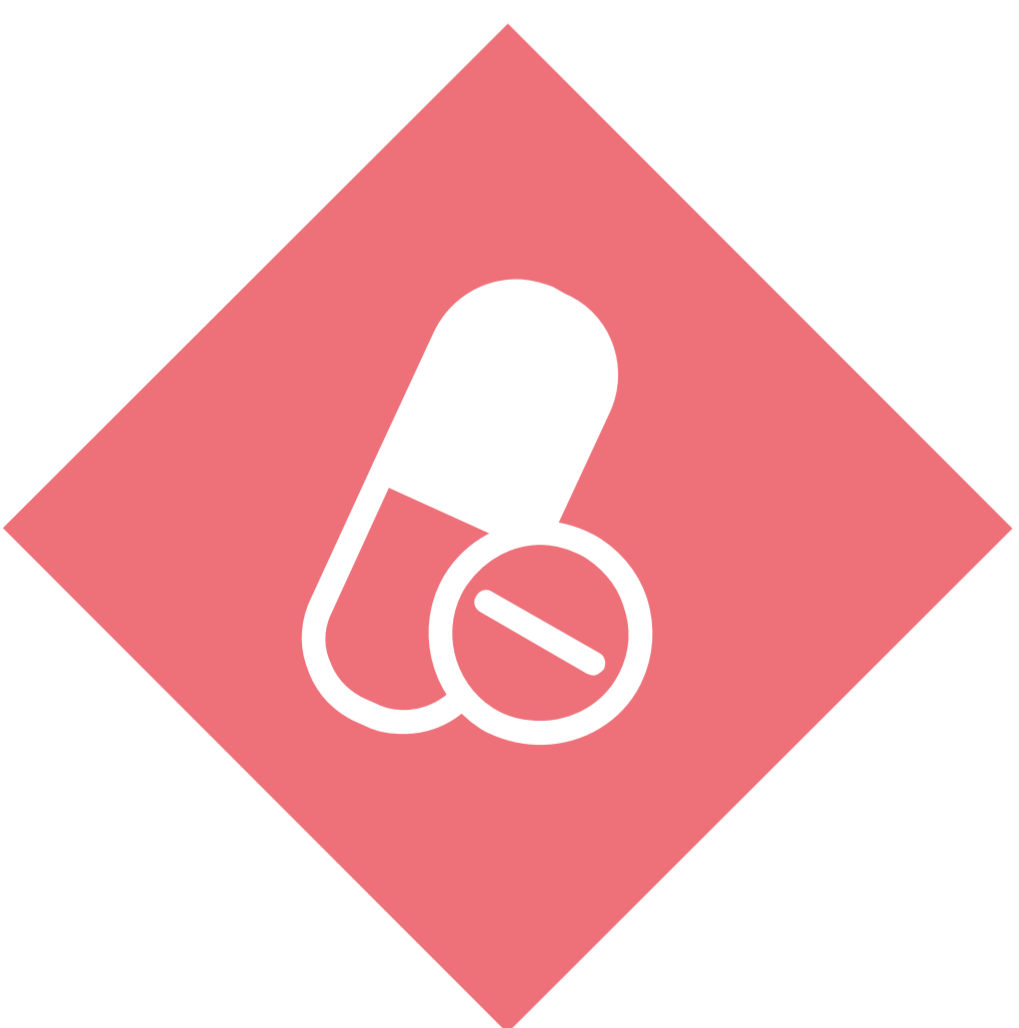
Provided by pharmacists (red) / Provided by technicians (orange)

### CRISIS MANAGEMENT



- 41% had previously standard operating procedures/pandemic plan
- 95% created crisis unit including mainly
  - ✓ Head pharmacist (61%)
  - ✓ Logistics unit member (34%)

### DRUGS COVID-19



- 54% ↑ existing stocks and/or
- 51% created new storages
- 51% created specific drugs' list for COVID-19 units

Such lists included:



### PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPORT

Telephonic support	68
Drugs preparation	29
Treatment choice	22
Drugs administration	29
	%

- ✓ 83% : **COVID drugs** (lopinavir/ritonavir, hydroxychloroquine, **remdesivir\***, tocilizumab)
- ✓ 81% : **Sedatives** (Dexmedetomidine, lorazepam, **midazolam\***)
- ✓ 77% : **Anaesthetics** (Etomidate, fentanyl, ketamine, **propofol\***, remifentanyl, sufentanyl, suxamethonium)
- ✓ 73% : **Antibiotics** (Amikacine, amoxiciline, azithromycine, ceftriaxone, cefuroxime, meropenem, piperacilline/tazobactam)

\* ran out of stock in 26% of HP ; \* propofol (49%) and midazolam (44%) generated the most concern of shortages

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