

# Pharmaceutical management of COVID-19 pandemic in Switzerland

## Hospitals

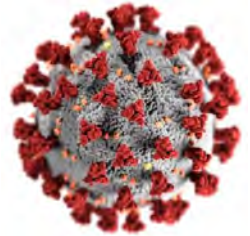
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# Background

- The COVID-19 pandemic puts a lot of strain on health systems this year throughout the world.
- In this context, a review of the Swiss hospital pharmacies actions undertaken and of the challenges experienced during the first wave was performed to improve pharmaceutical management of future health crises.
- Investigators: L. Schumacher and Y. Dhif, students in the CAS “Medicines and Medical Devices in Emergency and Disaster”.



# Methods

- An electronic survey was sent to all head of hospital pharmacies (HP) in Switzerland affiliated to GSASA.
- The questionnaire was organized into 11 clusters of questions and covered many topics regarding the management of the COVID-19 crisis.
- Data collection was conducted from 19 May to 19 June 2020 with reminders at 2, 3 and 4 weeks.



# Results

## Answers

- 43 answers (66%) out of 65 questionnaires

Hospital pharmacies characteristics		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

## Hygiene

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

## Management of the crisis

**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%)

# Results

## 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)

## 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)
Infusions	10 (38)
Laxatives	4 (15)

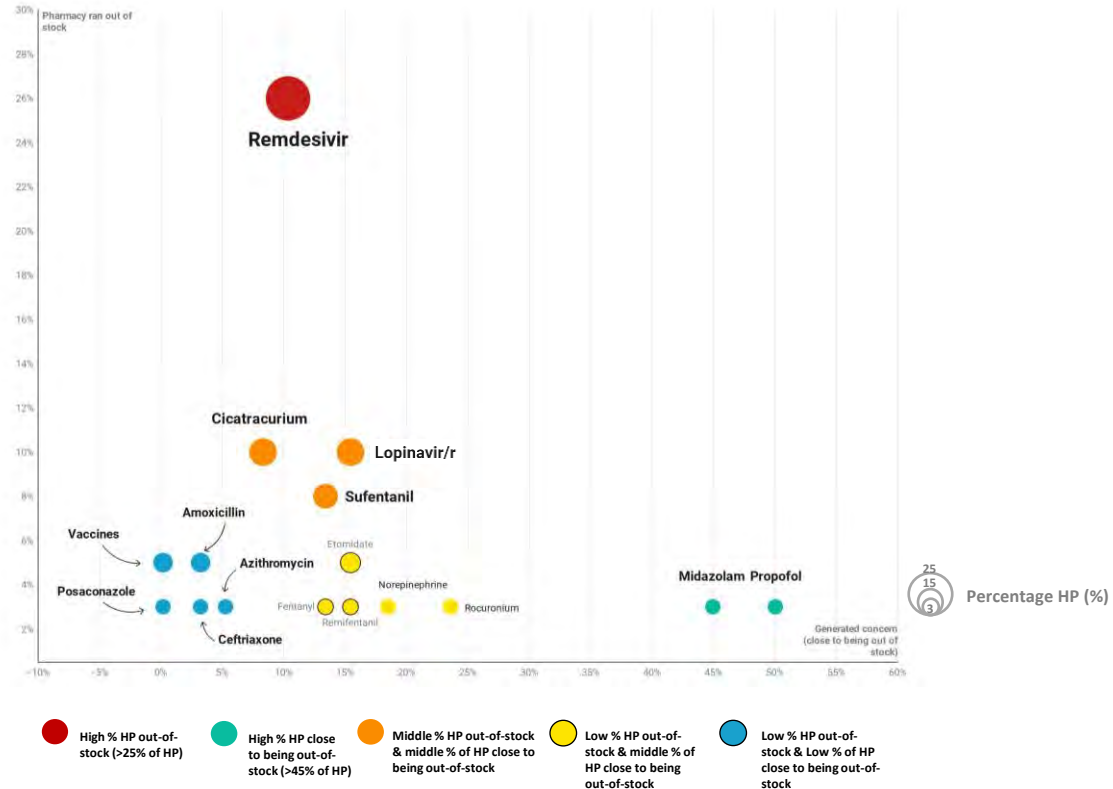
## Support for medical and care team

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)

# Results

## Out of stocks



# Conclusion

- The COVID-19 pandemic presented a big challenge for swiss hospital pharmacies, 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.



# For further information

## Swiss Survey

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

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## Example of a hospital pharmacy

Médecine de Catastrophe - Urgences Collectives 2020;4(3):223-232

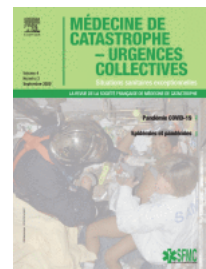
Article original

### Gestion de la pandémie COVID-19 en Suisse : rôles et défis d'une pharmacie interhospitalière

*Management of the COVID-19 pandemic in Switzerland: Roles and challenges of an interhospital pharmacy*

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