

# Pharmaceutical Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Switzerland

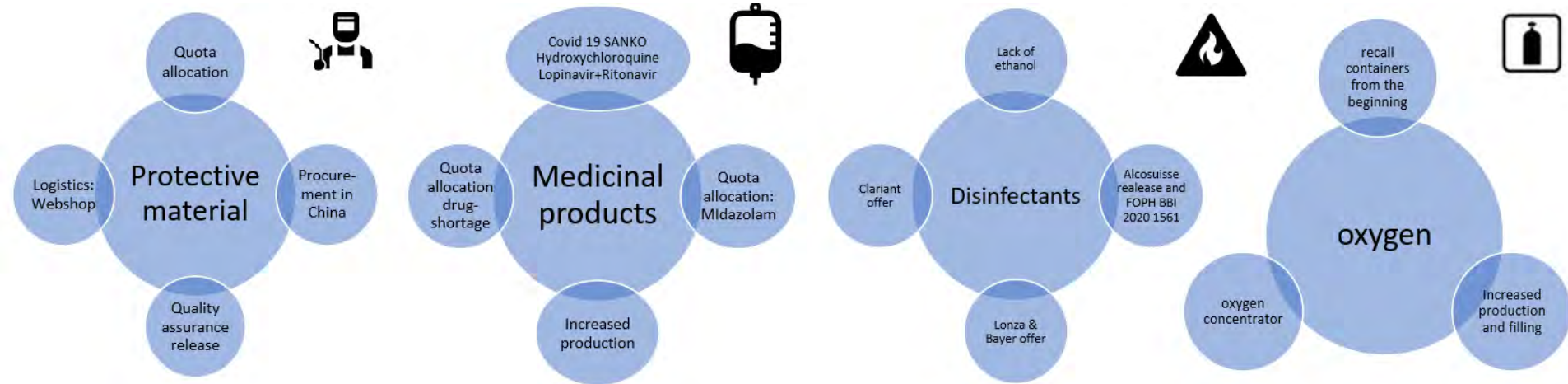
## Public Health Authorities

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# Background

The COVID-19 pandemic reached Switzerland with the first patient in the canton Ticino on February 25th, 2020.



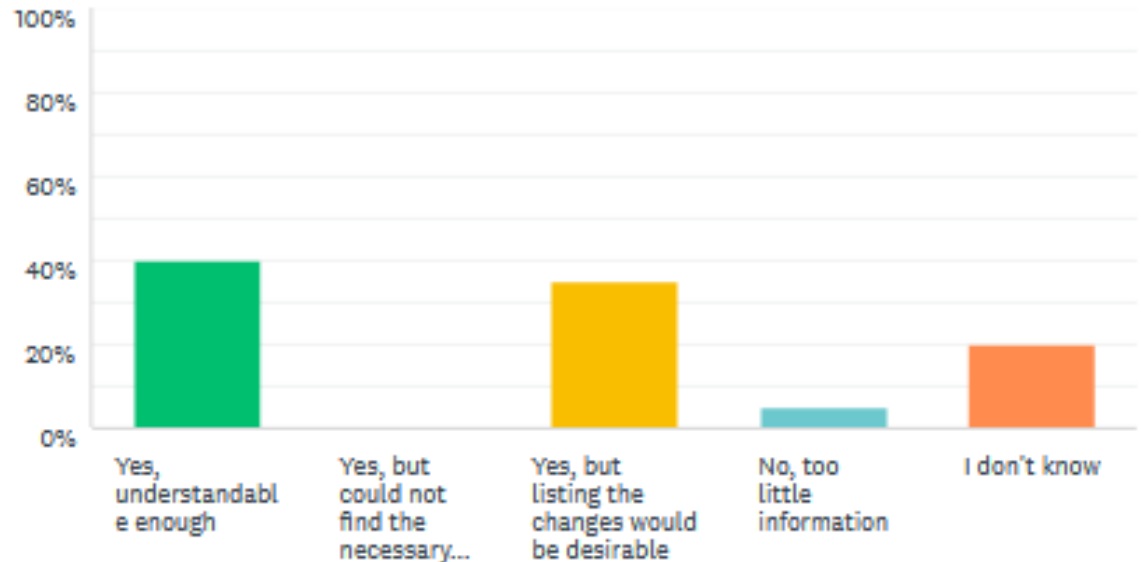
# Survey

## Method

- Electronic survey by survey monkey with data collection from 20 July to mid September 2020
- overview of actions undertaken and challenges experienced Swiss public health authorities
- Questionnaire to all cantonal doctors / pharmacists and federal authorities (FONES, FOPH and Swissmedic)
- 31 (54%) of 61 surveys were answered: 76% German, 24% French
- Investigators:  
J. Tinguely Casserini, L. Schumacher, P. Bonnabry and N. Widmer

# Legal basis

- For 40% of the respondent authorities, the entry of the COVID-19 ordinance 2 was fast enough
- 35% desired a listing of the changes



# Results

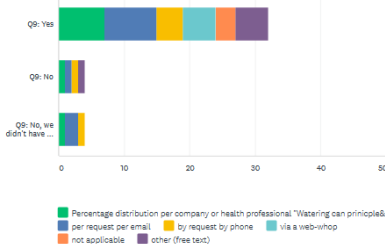
## Pandemic plan

**100%** of federal authorities prepared an internal pandemic plan, **67%** of the cantonal authorities used an internal pandemic plan

## Management of the crisis

**70%** have planned a business continuity plan

### PPE distribution with plan



## Human resources management in COVID-19

**100%** KAZs , **86%** KAPs and **43%** of federal authorities lack of human resources:  
59% did not have employees, that dropped out.  
41% had only 1-5 employees that got ill.



## PPE management in COVID-19

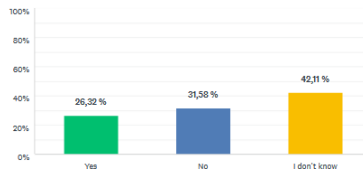
Professional expertise was not frequently enough consulted during the purchase of PPE in first wave:

- 60% of national partner (Swissmedic)
- 20% No vs. 55% Yes in case of cantonal partner

## Disinfectant management in COVID-19

**72%** of KAPs and respondents were satisfied with the ordonnance BBI 2020 1561

Planning reliability of disinfectant of Clariant:



## Oxygen management in COVID-19

81% checked on a shortage of oxygen

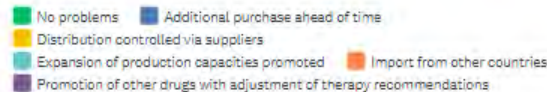
38% recalled packages  
50% of cantons kept reserves of a certain oxygen quantity  
25% increased manufacturing capacities

## Actions to anticipate drug shortage

- Distribution controlled by supplier 50%
- Promotion of alternative therapies 43%
- Additional purchases 36%

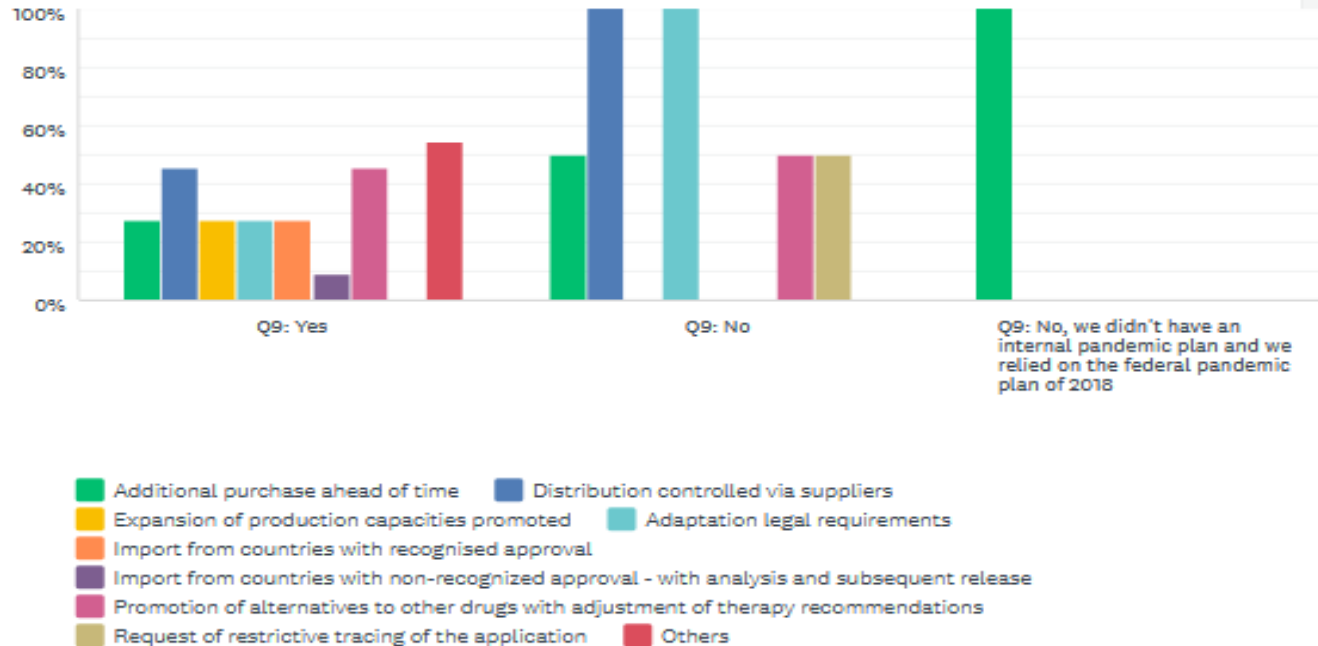
## Allocation of drugs in COVID-19

Allocation of hydroxychloroquine and lopinavir/ritonavir by the KSD/SSC/SANKO was just in time for 57%



# Preparation for pandemic

How did you anticipate these bottlenecks in general?





# Lessons learnt and discussion

- The culture of discussion built up over the years helped in the rapid implementation of measures.
- Regarding medical devices, substantial know-how had to be gathered first, even if there were authorities with the necessary knowledge.
- Active information is important (requested by 75% of authorities)
- Authorities with internal pandemic plan reacted faster and were more agile.
- We have to be prepared for future zoonoses and other pandemic emergencies.
- Exercise scenarios and rolling federal stocks are proposed.