

Switzerland - Infection prevention and control measures implemented in Sentinella practices in 2019 and 2021

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Overview

Identification

ID NUMBER

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Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

Version 1.0

PRODUCTION DATE

2022-01-31

Overview

ABSTRACT

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the importance of infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in health care settings, including primary care.

Aim

To describe how the COVID-19 pandemic influenced adherence to infection prevention and control measures in private practices in the Swiss sentinel network (Sentinella).

Methods

An online cross-sectional survey was sent to the 181 Sentinella practices in 2021 that included questions on the practice's spatial organisation, staff habits and vaccination coverage, surgery ventilation, mask wearing, hand hygiene and triage and separation of patients with suspected infection. Results were compared with those of a 2019 survey conducted in the same setting.

Findings

We received 127 valid questionnaires (70.2% response rate). At the time of the study, SARS-CoV-2 vaccination was underway among physicians (47.2%). In 2019 and in 2021, physicians reported similar influenza vaccination rates (90.2% vs 90.6%, respectively). However, mask wearing guidelines for staff jumped from non-existent (55.7%) to recommendation for continuous wearing (93.7%); hand hygiene improved, especially upon arrival at the practice (63.9% vs 85.8%; $p < 0.001$) and before examining patients (74.6% vs 88.2%; $p < 0.010$); impossibility of distancing symptomatic patients dropped (27.9% vs 3.9%, $p < 0.001$); and ventilation and cleaning improved ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic led to important changes in adhering to the recommended IPC measures.

KIND OF DATA

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

The unit of analysis is the medical practices. The number of participant practices was 122 in 2019 and 127 in 2021.

KEYWORDS

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Switzerland

UNIVERSE

General internal medicine and paediatric practices of the swiss sentinel network Sentinella

Producers and Sponsors

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OTHER PRODUCER(S)

Name	Affiliation	Role
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OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Name	Affiliation	Role
Lehmann, Iza	Center for Primary Care and Public Health (Unisanté)	Data interpretation, writing of manuscript
Peytremann, Arnaud	Center for Primary Care and Public Health (Unisanté)	Participation to drafting the study questionnaire, data analysis, reviewing manuscript
Price Hirt, Melanie	Write Lines Editing	English editing
Members	Sentinella program commission	Reviewing survey questionnaire

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Center for Primary Care and Public Health (Unisanté), University of Lausanne, Switzerland	Unisante		

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Version 1.0 (02.2022)

Sampling

Sampling Procedure

Questionnaires

Overview

questionnaire

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2019-03-12	2019-04-15	N/A
2021-03-01	2021-04-11	N/A

Data Collection Mode

Online survey

Data Collection Notes

Questionnaires

questionnaire

Data Processing

Data Editing

Data Appraisal

No content available