

Infection control in Swiss Nursing Homes pre-COVID-19: a sub-analysis of the SHURP 2018 study

Favez, Lauriane¹, Simon, Michael^{1,2}, Zúñiga, Franziska¹

¹ Institute of Nursing Science, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland; ² Inselspital Bern University Hospital, Nursing and Midwifery Research Unit, Bern, Switzerland - contact: lauriane.favez@unibas.ch

Introduction and study objective

- Nursing homes residents are more susceptible to infections and complications. Infection control is particularly important in this context.
- The goal was to estimate the prevalence of infection control processes and structures in Swiss nursing homes in 2018-2019 (pre Covid-19)

Results (1/2)

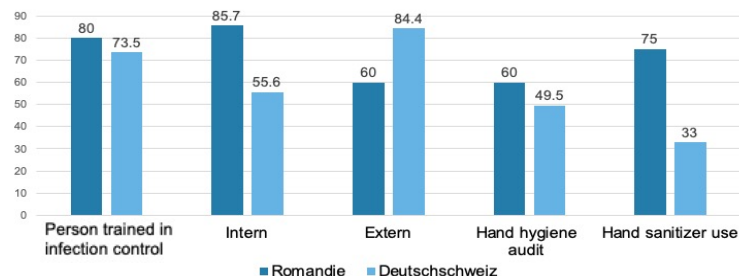
Infection control	% yes (n = 118)
Epidemics guidelines	98.3
Multi-resistant bacteria guidelines	77.8
Monitoring of infections	69.8
Collaboration with person trained in infection control (any)	74.6
Internal / External / Both	31.0 / 51.7 / 17.3
Yearly hand hygiene audit	51.3
Measure of hand sanitizer use	40.2

Methods

- Embedded in the SHURP 2018 study: a cross-sectional, multi-center study (2018-2019) using a convenience sample (n = 118) of French (n = 20) and German-speaking (n = 98) Swiss nursing homes.
- Questionnaire survey of nursing home directors with 7 items (yes/no answers)

Results (2/2)

Infection control by linguistic region (% yes)



Discussion

Most nursing homes had guidelines on infection control, but monitoring was less common. Majority had access to a person with specific competences in infection control but who was often external to the NH, making quick responses more difficult. We don't know whether and how these competences were utilized. The situation has certainly evolved since Covid-19, which has shown that feasible and efficient infection control are essential to protect both residents and care workers.