

# MANAGING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE A PRIMARY CARE POINT OF VIEW



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Coronavirus outbreak with a high transmission capacity and high mortality index in people older than 70 years (around 10 to 15%) has created a problem in nursing homes with huge consequences both in technical aspects, care, finances and ethics.

Our Primary Health Center cares for 32.000 inhabitants including circa **900** patients in **19** nursing homes. These centers have health professionals limited weekly hours to evaluate patients and a private organization gives care support.

## WE CREATED A NURSING HOME SUPPORT SUB TEAM:

**4**

NURSES

**2**

MEDICINE  
DOCTOR

## METHODS

Data base was created and shared with nursing home managers and health authorities. (number of 2 bed rooms, number of free 1 bed room, use of protection equipment, diagnostic procedures, suspected cases, confirmed cases, hospital referrals, deaths)



Non-risk and risk areas were defined both for common areas and living rooms. Quarantine areas were established and professionals were instructed on safety procedures for care in every area.

## RESULTS

Since mid-March until June 1<sup>st</sup> our team care for more than 400 patients, in 5 nursing homes and 2 mental health nursing homes. Only one patient turned PCR positive and no contagions happened.

## DISCUSSION:

Early response to symptoms and confinement was effective to avoid spread of disease. Community strategy from Primary Care Team is useful to deal for outbreaks in nursing homes.