

# BMJ Open How GPs adapted their practices and organisations at the beginning of COVID-19 outbreak: a French national observational survey

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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives** To describe how general practitioners (GPs) adapted their practices to secure and maintain access to care in the epidemic phase. A secondary objective was to explore if GPs' individual characteristics and type of practice determined their adaptation.

**Design** Observational study using an online questionnaire. Organisational changes were measured by a main question and detailed in two specific outcomes. To identify which GPs' characteristics impacted organisational changes, successive multivariate logistic modelling was performed. First, we identified the GPs' characteristics related to organisational changes with a univariate analysis. Then, we tested the adjusted associations between this variable and the following GPs' characteristics: age, gender and type of practice.

**Setting** The questionnaire was administered online between 14 March and 21 March 2020. Practitioners were recruited by email using the contact lists of different French scientific GP societies.

**Participants** The target population was GPs currently practising in France (n=46 056). We obtained a total of 7481 responses.

**Primary and secondary outcome measures** Primary outcome: Proportion of GPs who adapted their practice. Secondary outcome: GPs' characteristics related to organisational changes.

**Results** Among the 7481 responses, 5425 were complete and were analysed. 3849 GPs (70.9%) changed their activity, 3605 GPs (66.5%) increased remote consultations and 2315 GPs (42.7%) created a specific pathway for probable patients with COVID-19. Among the 3849 GPs (70.9%) who changed their practice, 3306 (91.7%) gave more answers by phone, 996 (27.6%) by email and 1105 (30.7%) increased the use of video consultations. GPs working in multi-professional group practices were more likely to have changed their activity since the beginning of the epidemic wave than GPs working in mono-professional group or single medical practices (adjusted OR: 1.32, 95% CI 1.12 to 1.56, p=0.001).

**Conclusions** French GPs adapted their practices regarding access to care for patients in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic. This adaptation was higher in multi-professional group practices.

## Strengths and limitations of this study

- This is the first French national study presenting adaptive strategies of general practitioners (GPs) at an early stage of the outbreak. Response rate to the survey was 11.8% of all active French GPs.
- In the context of the COVID-19 epidemic 70.9% of the responding French GPs adapted their practices regarding access to care for patients. This adaptation was organised in a context of a lack of PPE (protective personal equipment) and was higher in multi-professional group practices.
- GPs who participated were younger than the average among French GPs (45.8 vs 50.7). The proportion of women was higher (53.7% vs 44%) and they worked more frequently in multi-professional settings 31% vs 15%. This selection bias could have resulted in an overestimation of the adaptation of practices in our sample.

## INTRODUCTION

The spread of the COVID-19 outbreak among the general population has been a full-scale test for every health system around the world. Due to uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 epidemiology, action plans rely mostly on containment of the disease, a delay of dissemination by social distancing and a mitigation of impact by future vaccination and treatment issues based on research. The place of primary care in the management of the outbreak is crucial:<sup>1</sup> only the most severe patients are hospitalised while the diagnosis is largely carried out by general practitioners (GPs).<sup>2</sup> Simultaneously, maintaining the follow-up of patients with chronic and acute diseases, such as people who are disabled and frail at home and in institutions, is also a huge challenge for the first line of care in all of its components. The success of action plans relies on personal behaviour but also on the

ability of primary care providers to adapt their practices and organisations to a new strategy.

France, where the first case was diagnosed on 24 January 2020 is one of the main countries in Europe that was faced with a rapid increase in cases. Due to the lack of protection devices and a poor diagnostic testing capacity, the French strategy was based on containment and social distancing in order to delay the increase in acute patients in hospitals. In the first national guidelines, published at the end of February, primary care providers were mentioned marginally. On 16 March 2020, the same day as the epidemic stage 3 was declared in France according to the WHO criteria, the first version of an extensive guideline towards primary care was elaborated.<sup>3</sup> It emphasised mainly the use of telemedicine by physicians, and provided general recommendations about dedicated areas in waiting rooms, social distancing measures and hygiene rules. The establishment of dedicated territorial care pathways for probable patients with COVID-19 was not mentioned.

France has a primary care sector which can be qualified as a non-hierarchical professional model<sup>4</sup> with a large number of providers, most of them working as private independent professionals paid by fees from public funding (National Health Insurance). Many changes have occurred gradually over the last 20 years, with an increase in academic positions for GPs and the definition of GP's role and primary care providers by law. GPs work mainly in groups<sup>5</sup> and the number of multi-professional practices is expanding, with the support of national policies pushing for more coordination in primary care at the team-practice level but also at the local territorial level to better organise primary care towards the population's need.<sup>6</sup> Despite public policy to change primary care, information system from the field is weak and little is known about organisation, practice and performance of this healthcare sector. In this context, we described how GPs in various settings all over the country adapted their practices to face the epidemic wave. We aimed to disseminate the results to professionals and decision-makers, to validate and eventually adapt the guidelines. This study was developed by a larger national consortium ACCORD, which was initiated to perform research through professional networks and to enhance the development of the primary care field by the production of scientific knowledge in primary care practices.

As we had no quantitative information about GPs' adaptations in the context of outbreak, the main objective was to describe to what extent GPs adapted their practices to secure and maintain access to care in the epidemic phase. Our secondary objective was to explore if GP's individual characteristics and type of practice determined their adaptation.

## METHODS

Using an online questionnaire, we conducted a first national flash survey among French GPs currently practising in France.

## Survey instrument

The instrument was designed by seven authors from different specialties (GPs, public health researchers and epidemiologists). The questions, written in French, focussed on protective personal equipment (PPE), hygiene measures, organisational changes, specific pathways for patients with COVID-19 and information sources about the outbreak.

## Screening and recruitment

The questionnaire was administered through the free online software LimeSurvey. Twenty-four GPs pre-tested the online questionnaire in order to check its comprehensibility and acceptability.

The survey period occurred between 14 March and 21 March 2020. One reminder was sent before the end of the survey period.

The target population was GPs currently practising in France ( $n=46\,056$  in statutory health insurance database 2019).<sup>7</sup> Considering the surveyed population and an ideal random sampling strategy, the minimum sample size was 2283 GPs with a margin of error of 2% at a 95% confidence level. Practitioners were recruited by email using the contact lists of the different French scientific societies of GPs, which represent approximately 25 000 GPs, that is, 54.3% of the study population. Moreover, in order to collect data rapidly, a snowball sampling strategy was finally applied. To discuss the external validity of the results, the selection bias was analysed by comparison of the sample characteristics with existing validated data about French GPs.

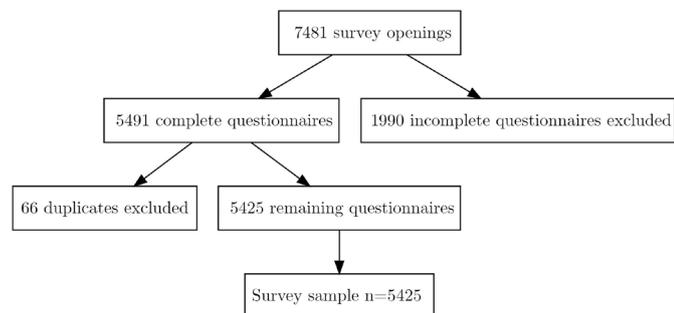
## Variables

Organisational changes were measured through a main question 'did you change your activity?' ( $n=5425$ ) and detailed in two specific outcomes: increase in remote consultations and the creation of a specific pathway.

The increase in remote consultations was measured through a binary variable describing whether the responding GP had increased the volume of their remote consultations (by email, phone or using teleconsultation tools). This variable was obtained from responses to three separate questions related to changes in the GP's activity since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak. The creation of a specific pathway was measured through a binary variable assessing the introduction of a specific pathway for probable patients with COVID-19 in the GP's practice. This variable was obtained from one separate question related to changes in the GP's activity since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Predictors: factors potentially associated with organisational changes.

We assessed the potential impact on organisational changes of GPs' age, gender and type of practice. GPs' age was coded continuously. The type of practice was measured with a binary variable distinguishing GPs working in multi-professional group practices from GPs working in mono-professional groups or single medical practices.



**Figure 1** Flow chart.

## Analysis

Modelling the probability of the organisational changes.

To identify which GPs' characteristics impacted the organisational changes, a successive multivariate logistic modelling was performed in two steps. In the first step, we identified which GPs' characteristics were related to organisational changes with a univariate analysis. The comparison of proportions was done with the Pearson's  $\chi^2$  test. Then, we tested the adjusted associations between the organisational changes and the following GPs' characteristics: age, gender and type of practice. The comparisons and regressions presented in the rest of the article are, unless otherwise stated, significant at the 5% threshold.

The study data were handled confidentially in accordance with the Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et Liberté (CNIL, approval no. 2217247). Data management, descriptive statistical analysis and modelling were carried out using software R V.4.0.

## Patient and public involvement

No patients were involved.

## RESULTS

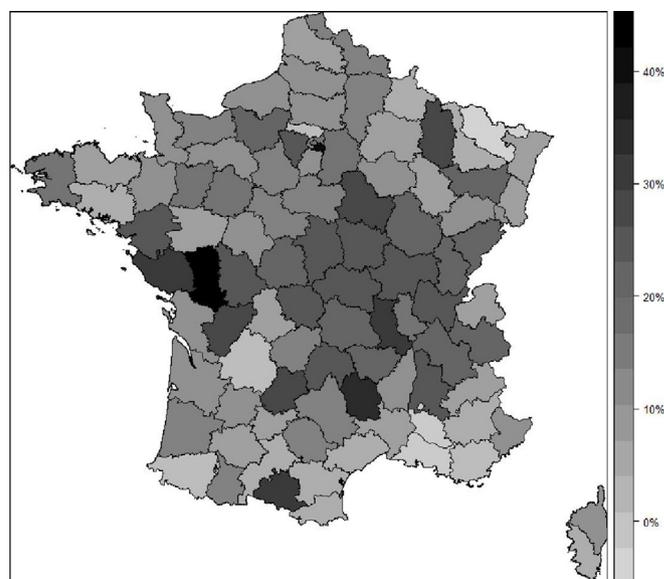
We obtained a total of 7481 responses to the questionnaire. From these, 5491 survey forms, including 66 duplicates, were fully completed. A total of 5425 unique complete responses were thus analysed (figure 1). The obtained sample of respondents was higher than the expected sample size (+138%). Considering the number of GPs currently practising in France in 2019, we estimated an average response rate of 11.8%. The number of respondents varied by geographical area, (see online supplemental table 1) but the response rate was roughly the same from one county to another (figure 2). The mean age was 45.8 (SD: 12.2) and 2914 (53.7%) respondents were women. One thousand and thirty-five GPs (19.1%) worked in a single medical practice and 2226 (41.0%) worked in a mono-professional group practice. Among the 2164 (39.9%) GPs working in a multi-professional group practice, 1411 (65.2%) worked in a multidisciplinary health house and 269 (12.4%) worked in an associative or municipal healthcare centre. Four thousand four hundred and fifty GPs (82.0%) had a secretariat (reception staff or telephone secretary). One

in four GPs offered unscheduled consultations. The characteristics of the respondents are summarised in table 1.

Regarding PPE, 4699 GPs (86.6%) had masks, 1402 (25.8%) had protective glasses and 1148 (21.2%) had aprons. Regarding hygiene and protective measures, 2874 GPs (53.0%) provided their patients with hydroalcoholic solutions, 4603 (84.8%) had communication supports detailing protective measures and 62.8% of GPs with masks were wearing one all day long (n=2951). Detailed data are summarised in table 2 and online supplemental tables 2–4.

Regarding organisational changes, 3849 GPs (70.9%) changed their activity, 3605 GPs (66.5%) increased remote consultations and 2315 GPs (42.7%) created a dedicated waiting area for COVID-19 suspected patients. More than one-third of the practitioners had a reception staff (n=1961, 36.1%); 72.3% of those receptionists (n=1418) wore a mask and 84.8% (n=1662) were trained to identify COVID-19 suspected patients. Among the 1383 GPs offering unscheduled consultations, one-third chose to cancel them and another one-third chose to adapt them to the epidemic wave. Among the 2798 GPs (51.6%) with the possibility of creating a dedicated waiting area for COVID-19 suspected patients, 2315 (82.7%) actually created one.

Among the 3849 GPs (70.9%) who changed their way of practising, 3306 (85.9%) gave more answers to their patients by phone, 996 (25.9%) gave more answers by email and 1105 (28.7%) increased their use of video consultations. One-third of the respondents (n=1972) created a specific pathway for COVID-19 suspected patients, by introducing dedicated consultations (n=1516, 76.9%), visiting them at home (n=253, 12.8%) or through a reorganisation of work duties among professionals (n=769, 39.0%). The detailed data are summarised in tables 2 and 3A and online supplemental table 5. The table 3B details



**Figure 2** Response rate by French administrative geographical area. GPs, general practitioners.

**Table 1** Characteristics of the survey respondents

Parameter	n=5425
<b>Gender</b>	
Female, n (%)	2914 (53.7)
Male, n (%)	2511 (46.3)
Age, mean age (SD)	45.8 (12.2)
<b>Type of practice</b>	
Alone, n (%)	1035 (19.1)
Mono-professional, n (%)	2226 (41.0)
Multi-professional, n (%)	2164 (39.9)
<b>Type of multi-professional practice (among n=2 164)</b>	
In multidisciplinary health house, n (%)	1411 (65.2)
In health centres, n (%)	269 (12.4)
Other, n (%)	484 (22.4)
<b>Secretariat*, n (%)</b>	
Physical, n	3389
By phone, n	2017
Online, n	1231
Unscheduled consultations, n (%)	1383 (25.5)
Receptionist, n (%)	1961 (36.1)
<b>Region</b>	
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, n (%)	882 (16.5)
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, n (%)	306 (5.7)
Bretagne, n (%)	274 (5.1)
Centre-Val de Loire, n (%)	183 (3.4)
Corse, n (%)	20 (0.4)
Grand Est, n (%)	344 (6.4)
Hauts-de-France, n (%)	467 (8.7)
Île-de-France, n (%)	892 (16.6)
Normandie, n (%)	259 (4.8)
Nouvelle-Aquitaine, n (%)	558 (10.4)
Occitanie, n (%)	432 (8.1)
Pays de la Loire, n (%)	394 (7.3)
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, n (%)	280 (5.2)
Regions of Outre-Mer, n (%)	70 (1.3)

\*Secretariat means taking appointments and playing role of receptionist.

the main communication channels for information and guidelines.

GPs working in multi-professional group practices were more likely to have changed their activity since the beginning of the epidemic wave than GPs working in mono-professional group or single medical practices (aOR (adjusted OR): 1.32, 95% CI 1.12 to 1.56,  $p=0.001$ ). Women were more likely than men to have increased their ability to provide remote consultations, by phone, email or video (aOR: 1.13, 95% CI 1.00 to 1.27,  $p=0.04$ ). GPs working in mono-professional group practices (aOR:

1.54, 95% CI 1.30 to 1.84,  $p<0.001$ ) and GPs working in multi-professional group practices (aOR:2.84, 95% CI 2.40 to 3.38,  $p<0.001$ ) were more likely to have created specific pathways for COVID-19 suspected patients than GPs working in single medical practices. Age was not associated with organisational changes. The detailed data are summarised in [table 4](#) and online supplemental table 6.

## DISCUSSION

### Statement of principal findings

Our study showed that about three-quarters (70.9%) of French GPs adapted their practices in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic. This adaptation occurred in a context of a lack of PPE. Working in a multi-professional group practice was strongly related to a higher level of adaptation. Development of remote consultations, mainly by developing phone consultations, concerned all GPs regardless of their type of practice.

### Strengths and limitations of this study

Our survey is the first in France to present the adaptive strategies of GPs at a very early stage of the outbreak. Collection of data started 2 days before the publication of specific recommendations for primary care actors. Its publication during the survey period could have influenced our results.

Response rate to the survey was 11.8% of all the French active GPs.<sup>7</sup> GPs belonged to all French counties: from 3.8% (Moselle) to 26.3% (Deux-Sèvres) with a median of 11.9%. We were not able to distinguish between urban and rural practices.

This study, however, has some other limitations. First, knowing the responses were based on self-reports with a certain amount of socially desirable answers, we probably overestimated the adaptation. Second, the GPs who participated were younger than the average French GPs (45.8 vs 50.7).<sup>7</sup> The proportion of women was higher (53.7% vs 44%)<sup>7</sup> and they worked more frequently in multi-professional settings 31% vs 15%.<sup>8</sup> This over-representation of young GPs working in new models of practices may be explained by the recruitment through scientific societies, especially the National College of Academic GPs, which exists since 1983 and expanded with the creation of full academic positions for GPs in 2009 with the recruitment of active and young GPs.<sup>9</sup> This selection bias could have resulted in an overestimation of the adaptation of practices in our sample. This may also underestimate the adaptive capacity of older GPs, who are also those less likely to be working in groups and multi-professional settings but may have other means of adaptation. Finally, due to the snowball strategy of recruitment we adopted for this survey, we decided not to use weighting measures.

### Meaning of the study: possible explanations and implications for clinicians and policymakers

This study was launched 3 days before the quarantine strategy. However, in the context of the first epidemic

**Table 2** Personal protection equipment, organisational, hygiene and protective measures by type of practice

N (%)	Alone n=1035	Mono-professional n=2226	Multi-professional n=2164	P value*
<b>Personal protection equipment</b>				
Protective masks (n=4699/5425)	855 (82.6)	1933 (86.8)	1911 (88.3)	<0.001
Protective glasses (n=1402/5425)	312 (30.1)	514 (23.1)	576 (26.6)	<0.001
Aprons (n=1148/5425)	193 (18.6)	415 (18.6)	540 (25.0)	<0.001
Forehead thermometer (n=4195/5425)	774 (74.8)	1721 (77.3)	1700 (78.6)	0.058
<b>Organisational changes</b>				
Secretariat (n=4450/5425)	597 (57.7)	1873 (84.1)	1980 (91.5)	<0.001
Change on the secretariat (n=2649/4450)	333 (55.8)	1029 (54.9)	1287 (65.0)	<0.001
Unscheduled consultations (n=1383/5425)	361 (34.9)	489 (22.0)	533 (24.6)	<0.001
Cancellation (n=482/1383)	125 (34.6)	171 (35.0)	186 (34.9)	0.994
Adaptation (n=521/901)	125 (53.0)	175 (55.0)	221 (63.7)	0.017
Change the activity (n=3849/5425)	706 (68.2)	1529 (68.7)	1614 (74.6)	<0.001
Creation of a dedicated area for suspected patients waiting (n=2315/5425)	299 (28.9)	752 (33.8)	1264 (58.4)	<0.001
Increase remote consultation solutions (n=3605/5425)	675 (65.2)	1436 (64.5)	1494 (69.0)	0.004
<b>Hygiene and protective measures</b>				
Mask for the receptionist (n=1418/1961)	99 (78.0)	532 (69.5)	787 (73.6)	0.053
Hydroalcoholic solution for patients (n=2874/5425)	424 (41.0)	1120 (50.3)	1330 (61.5)	<0.001
Communication supports (slideshows, posters and so on) (n=4603/5425)	769 (74.3)	1910 (85.8)	1924 (88.9)	<0.001
Disinfection of reception areas (n=4308/5425)	800 (77.3)	1725 (77.5)	1783 (82.4)	<0.001
Mask all day (n=2951/4699)	488 (57.1)	1225 (63.4)	1238 (64.8)	<0.001
Hands disinfection between each patient (n=5322/5425)	1007 (97.3)	2189 (98.3)	2126 (98.2)	0.104

\*Pearson's  $\chi^2$  test.

**Table 3** (A) Increase of remote consultations and creation of a specific pathway by type of practice. (B) Communication channels for information and guidelines by type of practice

N (%)	Alone n=1035	Mono-professional n=2226	Multi-professional n=2164
<b>(A)</b>			
Increase of remote consultations	675 (65.2)	1436 (64.5)	1494 (69.0)
More consultations by phone	629 (60.8)	1328 (59.7)	1349 (62.3)
More consultations by email	215 (20.8)	400 (18.0)	381 (17.6)
More teleconsultations	194 (18.7)	401 (18.0)	510 (23.6)
Creation of a specific pathway	240 (23.2)	717 (32.3)	1015 (46.9)
By introducing dedicated consultations	190 (18.4)	558 (25.1)	768 (35.5)
By creating dedicated area for suspected patients waiting	299 (28.9)	752 (33.8)	1264 (58.4)
By visiting suspected patients at their home	40 (3.9)	85 (3.8)	128 (5.9)
By reorganising the tasks between professionals	36 (3.5)	217 (9.7)	516 (23.8)
<b>(B)</b>			
Ministry of Health	865 (83.6)	1937 (87.0)	1916 (88.5)
Regional agency of health	582 (56.2)	1242 (55.8)	1262 (58.3)
Professional order	595 (57.5)	1335 (60.0)	1263 (58.4)
Regional professional union	679 (65.6)	1425 (64.0)	1332 (61.6)
Professional association	547 (52.9)	1228 (55.2)	1227 (56.7)
Other professional	519 (50.1)	1352 (60.7)	1490 (68.9)

**Table 4** Logistic regressions

« Did you change your activity since the outbreak? »

	n	OR (95% CI)	P value	aOR (95% CI)	P value
Age	5424*	0.99 (0.99 to 1.00)	0.01	1.00 (0.99 to 1.00)	0.170
Gender	p=0.13				
Male	2511	1		1	
Female	2914	1.10 (0.97 to 1.23)	0.1	1.07 (0.94 to 1.21)	0.307
Type of practice	p<0.001				
Alone	1035	1		1	
Mono	2226	1.02 (0.87 to 1.20)	0.8	1.00 (0.85 to 1.17)	0.953
Multi	2164	1.37 (1.16 to 1.61)	<0.001	1.32 (1.12 to 1.56)	0.001

« Did you increase your remote consultations since the outbreak? »

	n	OR (95% CI)	P value	aOR (95% CI)	P value
Age	5424†	1.00 (0.99 to 1.00)	0.05	1.00 (0.99 to 1.00)	0.35
Gender	p=0.018				
Male	2511	1		1	
Female	2914	1.15 (1.03 to 1.29)	0.02	1.13 (1.00 to 1.27)	0.04
Type of practice	p=0.004				
Alone	1035	1		1	
Mono	2226	0.97 (0.83 to 1.13)	0.69	0.95 (0.81 to 1.11)	0.49
Multi	2164	1.19 (1.02 to 1.39)	0.03	1.16 (0.98 to 1.36)	0.08

« Have you set up a specific pathway for COVID-19 patients? »

	n	OR (95% CI)	P value	aOR (95% CI)	P value
Age	5424‡	0.99 (0.99 to 0.99)	<0.001	1.00 (0.99 to 1.00)	0.08
Gender	p=0.66				
Male	2511	1		1	
Female	2914	0.97 (0.87 to 1.09)	0.6	0.92 (0.82 to 1.04)	0.17
Type of practice	p<0.001				
Alone	1035	1		1	
Mono	2226	1.57 (1.33 to 1.87)	<0.001	1.54 (1.30 to 1.84)	<0.001
Multi	2164	2.93 (2.48 to 3.46)	<0.001	2.84 (2.40 to 3.38)	<0.001

\*T-test: p=0.016.

†T-test: p=0.054.

‡T-test: p&lt;0.001.

aOR, adjusted OR.

wave, and despite the mobilisation and preparation of frontline actors such as GPs, the leadership of the health system has concentrated its efforts on lockdown and intensive care. According to some reports, many countries in western Europe have adopted a quite similar strategy.<sup>10 11</sup> The quarantine strategy induced a decrease of 40% in regular GP activities all over the country between 18 March and 31 March 2020.<sup>12</sup> This decline was partly compensated by the increase in teleconsultations to represent a global decrease of 30% of GPs' activities over the same period. This fast adaptation was supported by the valuation of teleconsultation for patients with COVID-19 symptoms being at the same price as a regular visit. Moreover, teleconsultations were not limited to any

specific application. This increase in teleconsultations is probably due more to the increase in phone consultations than IT solutions. In addition, GPs who declared changing their activity in the survey declared increasing phone consultations (91.7%) three times more often than those who declared increasing their video consultations (30.7%). Nevertheless, the adoption of remote consultations did not compensate the lowered number of consultations and may increase unmet needs. This may in particular be due to the patients' behaviour since they were requested by health authorities, at the beginning of the quarantine, to stay at home and to call the emergency number or their regular GP only if they had severe COVID-19 symptoms.

Most countries are now progressively ending the total lockdown strategy. GPs, as a part of the entire primary care sector were only lately involved in a national action plan to respond to the outbreak. They are now involved since the end of the quarantine strategy.<sup>13 14</sup> PPE are now accessible, as well as RT-PCR (reverse transcription PCR) and serology tests.<sup>15</sup> The issue for GPs and primary care sector is therefore to be involved in the management of the chronic phase outbreak and to simultaneously maintain accessibility and continuity of care for the whole population.

Our results tend to prove that team work and integrated form of practice in primary care reveal a promising model, not only to manage the demand of care induced by the epidemiological transition,<sup>16</sup> but also during the infectious outbreak. As it exists a 'white plan' for hospitals in case of crisis, the primary care sector which has to play a key role needs a specific outbreak plan in the future.

Another study in the UK assessed the responsiveness and prioritisation of primary care consultation types for older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>17</sup> This database study showed an unprecedented reorganisation while retaining a focus on patients with increased complexity.

### Unanswered questions and future research

The outbreak threat requires us to regularly adapt our practices and organisations, which requires a continuous assessment and research in the clinic, epidemiology and health services. Further surveys exploring territorial issues, such as coordination between primary care actors regarding continuity and accessibility of care, and the management of patients with COVID-19 and the population, are in progress.

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## Annexe 1.

<b>French administrative geographic area</b>	<b>GPs in activity in the area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of responses in the area</b>	<b>Response rate calculated as column 3 divided by column 2</b>
Ain	350	60	17,1%
Aisne	271	32	11,8%
Allier	214	37	17,3%
Alpes-de-Haute-Provence	142	12	8,5%
Hautes-Alpes	140	14	10,0%
Alpes-Maritimes	928	103	11,1%
Ardèche	211	23	10,9%
Ardennes	183	13	7,1%
Ariège	110	22	20,0%
Aube	174	18	10,3%
Aude	264	20	7,6%
Aveyron	181	24	13,3%
Bouches-du-Rhône	1,686	85	5,0%
Calvados	530	63	11,9%
Cantal	111	20	18,0%
Charente	210	39	18,6%
Charente-Maritime	555	65	11,7%
Cher	155	27	17,4%
Corrèze	168	20	11,9%
Côte-d'Or	432	70	16,2%
Côtes-d'Armor	384	34	8,9%
Creuse	70	12	17,1%
Dordogne	257	17	6,6%
Doubs	446	69	15,5%
Drôme	347	59	17,0%
Eure	305	49	16,1%
Eure-et-Loir	201	24	11,9%
Finistère	753	103	13,7%
Corse-du-Sud	105	8	7,6%
Haute-Corse	117	12	10,3%
Gard	527	47	8,9%
Haute-Garonne	1,156	95	8,2%
Gers	133	13	9,8%
Gironde	1,462	153	10,5%
Hérault	1,038	75	7,2%
Ille-et-Vilaine	852	88	10,3%
Indre	113	17	15,0%
Indre-et-Loire	483	51	10,6%
Isère	985	152	15,4%

<b>French administrative geographic area</b>	<b>GPs in activity in the area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of responses in the area</b>	<b>Response rate calculated as column 3 divided by column 2</b>
Jura	190	31	16,3%
Landes	336	42	12,5%
Loir-et-Cher	192	24	12,5%
Loire	597	118	19,8%
Haute-Loire	170	26	15,3%
Loire-Atlantique	1,164	198	17,0%
Loiret	336	40	11,9%
Lot	129	24	18,6%
Lot-et-Garonne	175	19	10,9%
Lozère	47	10	21,3%
Maine-et-Loire	637	55	8,6%
Manche	300	35	11,7%
Marne	439	44	10,0%
Haute-Marne	103	10	9,7%
Mayenne	165	23	13,9%
Meurthe-et-Moselle	596	42	7,0%
Meuse	113	21	18,6%
Morbihan	602	49	8,1%
Moselle	663	25	3,8%
Nièvre	114	19	16,7%
Nord	2,032	247	12,2%
Oise	425	48	11,3%
Orne	135	15	11,1%
Pas-de-Calais	996	91	9,1%
Puy-de-Dôme	502	77	15,3%
Pyrénées-Atlantiques	590	40	6,8%
Hautes-Pyrénées	163	21	12,9%
Pyrénées-Orientales	426	31	7,3%
Bas-Rhin	982	89	9,1%
Haut-Rhin	500	44	8,8%
Rhône	1,451	197	13,6%
Haute-Saône	165	18	10,9%
Saône-et-Loire	323	58	18,0%
Sarthe	264	37	14,0%
Savoie	370	57	15,4%
Haute-Savoie	596	56	9,4%
Paris	1,423	191	13,4%
Seine-Maritime	886	97	10,9%
Seine-et-Marne	690	92	13,3%
Yvelines	754	128	17,0%

<b>French administrative geographic area</b>	<b>GPs in activity in the area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of responses in the area</b>	<b>Response rate calculated as column 3 divided by column 2</b>
Deux-Sèvres	234	61	26,1%
Somme	469	49	10,4%
Tarn	265	35	13,2%
Tarn-et-Garonne	156	15	9,6%
Var	843	46	5,5%
Vaucluse	377	20	5,3%
Vendée	388	81	20,9%
Vienne	335	57	17,0%
Haute-Vienne	366	33	9,0%
Vosges	251	38	15,1%
Yonne	172	32	18,6%
Territoire de Belfort	79	9	11,4%
Essonne	646	71	11,0%
Hauts-de-Seine	803	106	13,2%
Seine-Saint-Denis	671	98	14,6%
Val-de-Marne	679	170	25,0%
Val-d'Oise	606	36	5,9%
Guadeloupe	248	13	5,2%
Martinique	200	12	6,0%
Guyane	83	1	1,2%
La Réunion	674	42	6,2%
Mayotte	21	2	9,5%

<sup>1</sup> Figures from the whole population of all active French GP's (CNAMTS 2019)

## Annexe 2.

n (%)	Alone n = 1,035	Mono- professional n = 2,226	Multi- professional n = 2,164	p
<b>Equipment</b>				
Protective masks (n = 4 699 / 5 425)				
Yes	855 (82.6)	1,933 (86.8)	1,911 (88.3)	< 0.001
No	180 (17.4)	293 (13.2)	253 (11.7)	
Protective glasses (n = 1 402 / 5 425)				
Yes	312 (30.1)	514 (23.1)	576 (26.6)	< 0.001
No	723 (69.9)	1,712 (76.9)	1,588 (26.6)	
Aprons (n = 1 148 / 5 425)				
Yes	193 (18.6)	415 (18.6)	540 (25.0)	< 0.001
No	842 (81.4)	1,811 (81.4)	1,624 (75.0)	
Forehead thermometer (n = 4 195 / 5 425)				
Yes	774 (74.8)	1,721 (77.3)	1,700 (78.6)	0.058
No	261 (25.2)	505 (22.7)	464 (21.4)	
<b>Organisational changes</b>				
Secretariat (n = 4 450 / 5 425)				
Yes	597 (57.7)	1,873 (84.1)	1,980 (91.5)	< 0.001
No	438 (42.3)	353 (15.9)	184 (8.5)	
<i>Change on the secretariat (n = 2 649 / 4 450)</i>				
Yes	333 (55.8)	1,029 (54.9)	1,287 (65.0)	< 0.001
No	264 (44.2)	844 (45.1)	693 (35.0)	
Unscheduled consultations (n = 1 383 / 5 425)				
Yes	361 (34.9)	489 (22.0)	533 (24.6)	< 0.001
No	674 (65.1)	1,737 (78.0)	1,631 (75.4)	
<i>Cancellation (n = 482 / 1 383)</i>				
Yes	125 (34.6)	171 (35.0)	186 (34.9)	0.994
No	236 (65.4)	318 (65.0)	347 (65.1)	
<i>Adaptation (n = 521 / 901)</i>				
Yes	125 (53.0)	175 (55.0)	221 (63.7)	0.017
No	111 (47.0)	143 (45.0)	126 (36.3)	
Change the activity (n = 3 849 / 5 425)				
Yes	706 (68.2)	1,529 (68.7)	1,614 (74.6)	< 0.001
No	329 (31.8)	697 (31.3)	550 (25.4)	
<i>Creation of a dedicated area for suspected patients waiting (n = 2 315 / 5 425)</i>				
Yes	299 (28.9)	752 (33.8)	1,264 (58.4)	< 0.001
No	736 (71.1)	1,474 (66.2)	900 (41.6)	
<i>Increase remote consultation solutions (n = 3 605 / 5 425)</i>				
Yes	675 (65.2)	1,436 (64.5)	1,494 (69.0)	0.004
No	360 (34.8)	790 (35.5)	670 (31.0)	
<b>Hygiene and protective measures</b>				
Mask for the receptionist				0.053

n (%)	Alone n = 1,035	Mono- professional n = 2,226	Multi- professional n = 2,164	p
(n = 1 418 / 1 961)				
Yes	99 (78.0)	532 (69.5)	787 (73.6)	
No	28 (22.0)	233 (30.5)	282 (26.4)	
Training of the receptionist (n = 1 662 / 1 961)				
Yes	106 (83.5)	645 (84.3)	911 (85.2)	0.796
No	21 (16.5)	120 (15.7)	158 (14.8)	
Hydroalcoholic solution for patients (n = 2 874 / 5 425)				
Yes	424 (41.0)	1,120 (50.3)	1,330 (61.5)	< 0.001
No	611 (59.0)	1,106 (49.7)	834 (38.4)	
Communication supports (slideshows, posters...) (n = 4 603 / 5 425)				
Yes	769 (74.3)	1,910 (85.8)	1,924 (88.9)	< 0.001
No	266 (25.7)	316 (14.2)	240 (11.1)	
Disinfection of reception areas .. (n = 4 308 / 5 425)				
Yes	800 (77.3)	1,725 (77.5)	1,783 (82.4)	< 0.001
No	235 (22.7)	501 (22.5)	381 (17.6)	
Mask all day (n = 2 951 / 4 699)				
Yes	488 (57.1)	1,225 (63.4)	1,238 (64.8)	< 0.001
No	367 (42.9)	708 (36.6)	673 (35.2)	
Hands disinfection between each patient (n = 5 322 / 5 425)				
Yes	1,007 (97.3)	2,189 (98.3)	2,126 (98.2)	0.104
No	28 (2.7)	37 (1.7)	38 (1.8)	

## Annexe 3.

n (%)	Alone n = 1,035	In group n = 4,390	p
<b>Equipment</b>			
Protective masks (n = 4 699 / 5 425)			
Yes	855 (82.6)	3,844 (87.6)	< 0.001
No	180 (17.4)	546 (12.4)	
Protective glasses (n = 1 402 / 5 425)			
Yes	312 (30.1)	1,090 (24.8)	< 0.001
No	723 (69.9)	3,300 (75.2)	
Aprons (n = 1 148 / 5 425)			
Yes	193 (18.6)	955 (21.8)	0.03
No	842 (81.4)	3,435 (78.2)	
Forehead thermometer (n = 4 195 / 5 425)			
Yes	774 (74.8)	3,421 (77.9)	0.03
No	261 (25.2)	969 (22.1)	
<b>Organisational changes</b>			
Secretariat (n = 4 450 / 5 425)			
Yes	597 (57.7)	3,853 (87.8)	< 0.001
No	438 (42.3)	537 (12.2)	
<i>Change on the secretariat</i> (n = 2 649 / 4 450)			
Yes	333 (55.8)	2,316 (60.1)	< 0.05
No	264 (44.2)	1,537 (39.9)	
Unscheduled consultations (n = 1 383 / 5 425)			
Yes	361 (34.9)	1,022 (23.3)	< 0.001
No	674 (65.1)	3,368 (76.7)	
<i>Cancellation</i> (n = 482 / 1 383)			
Yes	125 (34.6)	357 (34.9)	0.97
No	236 (65.4)	665 (65.1)	
<i>Adaptation</i> (n = 521 / 901)			
Yes	125 (53.0)	396 (59.5)	0.09
No	111 (47.0)	269 (40.5)	
Change the activity (n = 3 849 / 5 425)			
Yes	706 (68.2)	3,143 (71.6)	0.03
No	329 (31.8)	1,247 (28.4)	
<i>Creation of a dedicated area for suspected patients waiting</i> (n = 2 315 / 5 425)			
Yes	299 (28.9)	2,016 (45.9)	< 0.001
No	736 (71.1)	2,374 (54.1)	
<i>Increase remote consultation solutions</i> (n = 3 605 / 5 425)			
Yes	675 (65.2)	2,930 (66.7)	0.369
No	360 (34.8)	1,460 (33.3)	
<b>Hygiene and protective measures</b>			
Mask for the receptionist (n = 1 418 / 1 961)			0.172

n (%)	Alone n = 1,035	In group n = 4,390	p
Yes	99 (78.0)	1,319 (71.9)	
No	28 (22.0)	515 (28.1)	
Training of the receptionist (n = 1 662 / 1 961)			0.772
Yes	106 (83.5)	1,556 (84.8)	
No	21 (16.5)	278 (15.2)	
Hydroalcoholic solution for patients (n = 2 874 / 5 425)			< 0 001
Yes	424 (41.0)	2,450 (55.8)	
No	611 (59.0)	1,940 (44.2)	
Communication supports (slideshows, posters...) (n = 4 603 / 5 425)			< 0 001
Yes	769 (74.3)	3,834 (87.3)	
No	266 (25.7)	556 (12.7)	
Disinfection of reception areas .. (n = 4 308 / 5 425)			0.07
Yes	800 (77.3)	3,508 (79.9)	
No	235 (22.7)	882 (20.1)	
Mask all day (n = 2 951 / 4 699)			< 0.001
Yes	488 (57.1)	2,463 (64.1)	
No	367 (42.9)	1,381 (35.9)	
Hands disinfection between each patient (n = 5 322 / 5 425)			< 0.05
Yes	1,007 (97.3)	4,315 (98.3)	
No	28 (2.7)	75 (1.7)	

## Annexe 4.

n (%)	Alone or mono-professional n = 3,261	Multi-professional n = 2,164	p
<b>Equipment</b>			
Protective masks (n = 4 699 / 5 425)			
Yes	2,788 (85.5)	1,911 (88.3)	0.003
No	473 (14.5)	253 (11.7)	
Protective glasses (n = 1 402 / 5 425)			
Yes	826 (25.3)	576 (26.6)	0.303
No	2,435 (74.7)	1,588 (73.4)	
Aprons (n = 1 148 / 5 425)			
Yes	608 (18.6)	540 (25.0)	< 0.001
No	2,653 (81.4)	1,624 (75.0)	
Forehead thermometer (n = 4 195 / 5 425)			
Yes	2,495 (76.5)	1,700 (78.6)	0.08
No	766 (23.5)	464 (21.4)	
<b>Organisational changes</b>			
Secretariat (n = 4 450 / 5 425)			
Yes	2,470 (75.7)	1,980 (91.5)	< 0.001
No	791 (24.3)	184 (8.5)	
<i>Change on the secretariat (n = 2 649 / 4 450)</i>			
Yes	1,362 (55.1)	1,287 (65.0)	< 0.001
No	1,108 (44.9)	693 (35.0)	
Unscheduled consultations (n = 1 383 / 5 425)			
Yes	850 (26.1)	533 (24.6)	0.250
No	2,411 (73.9)	1,631 (75.4)	
<i>Cancellation (n = 482 / 1 383)</i>			
Yes	296 (34.8)	186 (34.9)	1
No	554 (34.8)	347 (65.1)	
Adaptation (n = 521 / 901)			
Yes	300 (54.2)	221 (63.7)	0.006
No	254 (45.8)	126 (36.3)	
Change the activity (n = 3 849 / 5 425)			
Yes	2,235 (68.5)	1,614 (74.6)	< 0.001
No	1,026 (31.5)	550 (25.4)	
<i>Creation of a dedicated area for suspected patients waiting (n = 2 315 / 5 425)</i>			
Yes	1,051 (32.2)	1,264 (58.4)	< 0.001
No	2,210 (67.8)	900 (41.6)	
<i>Increase remote consultation solutions (n = 3 605 / 5 425)</i>			
Yes	2,111 (64.7)	1,494 (69.0)	0.001
No	1,150 (35.3)	670 (31.0)	
<b>Hygiene and protective measures</b>			

n (%)	Alone or mono- professional n = 3,261	Multi- professional n = 2,164	p
Mask for the receptionist (n = 1 418 / 1 961)			
Yes	631 (70.7)	787 (73.6)	0.171
No	261 (29.3)	282 (26.4)	
Training of the receptionist (n = 1 662 / 1 961)			
Yes	751 (84.2)	911 (85.2)	0.571
No	141 (15.8)	158 (14.8)	
Hydroalcoholic solution for patients (n = 2 874 / 5 425)			
Yes	1,544 (47.3)	1,330 (61.5)	< 0.001
No	1,717 (52.7)	834 (38.5)	
Communication supports (slideshows, posters...) (n = 4 603 / 5 425)			
Yes	2,679 (82.2)	1,924 (88.9)	< 0.001
No	582 (17.8)	240 (11.1)	
Disinfection of reception areas .. (n = 4 308 / 5 425)			
Yes	2,525 (77.4)	1,783 (82.4)	< 0.001
No	736 (22.6)	381 (17.6)	
Mask all day (n = 2 951 / 4 699)			
Yes	1,713 (61.4)	1,238 (64.8)	0.021
No	1,075 (38.6)	673 (35.2)	
Hands disinfection between each patient (n = 5 322 / 5 425)			
Yes	3,196 (98.0)	2,126 (98.2)	0.600
No	65 (2.0)	38 (1.8)	

## Annexe 5.

n (%)	Alone n = 1,035	Mono-professional n = 2,226	Multi- professional n = 2,164
<b>Increase of remote consultations</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>675 (65.2)</b>	<b>1,436 (64.5)</b>	<b>1,494 (69.0)</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>360 (34.8)</b>	<b>790 (35.5)</b>	<b>670 (31.0)</b>
<i>More answers by phone</i>			
<i>Yes</i>			
<i>No</i>	629 (60.8)	1,328 (59.7)	1,349 (62.3)
	406 (39.2)	898 (40.3)	815 (37.7)
<i>More answers by mail</i>			
<i>Yes</i>	215 (20.8)	400 (18.0)	381 (17.6)
<i>No</i>	820 (79.2)	1,826 (82.0)	1,783 (82.4)
<i>More teleconsultation</i>			
<i>Yes</i>	194 (18.7)	401 (18.0)	510 (23.6)
<i>No</i>	841 (81.3)	1,825 (82.0)	1,654 (76.4)
<b>Creation of a specific pathway</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	<b>240 (23.2)</b>	<b>717 (32.2)</b>	<b>1,015 (46.9)</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>795 (76.8)</b>	<b>1,509 (67.8)</b>	<b>1,149 (53.1)</b>
<i>By introducing dedicated consultations</i>			
<i>Yes</i>	190 (18.4)	558 (25.1)	768 (35.5)
<i>No</i>	845 (81.6)	1,668 (74.9)	1,396 (64.5)
<i>By creating dedicated area for suspected patients waiting</i>			
<i>Yes</i>	299 (28.9)	752 (33.8)	1,264 (58.4)
<i>No</i>	736 (71.1)	1,474 (66.2)	900 (41.6)
<i>By visiting suspected patients at their home</i>			
<i>Yes</i>	40 (3.9)	85 (3.8)	128 (5.9)
<i>No</i>	995 (96.1)	2,141 (96.2)	2,036 (94.1)
<i>By reorganising the tasks between professionals</i>			
<i>Yes</i>	36 (3.5)	217 (9.7)	516 (23.8)
<i>No</i>	999 (96.5)	2,009 (90.3)	1,648 (76.2)

## Annexe 6. T-test and Pearson's chi-squared tests of the logistic regression table (Table 4)

	Yes, I have changed my activity since the outbreak	No, I have not changed my activity since the outbreak
Age	45.6	46.5

$t = 2.40 ; p = 0.016$

	Yes, I have changed my activity since the outbreak	No, I have not changed my activity since the outbreak
Male	1,756	755
Female	2,093	821

$\chi^2 = 2.25 ; p = 0.13$

	Yes, I have changed my activity since the outbreak	No, I have not changed my activity since the outbreak
Alone	706	329
Mono-professional	1,529	697
Multi-professional	1,614	550

$\chi^2 = 23.15 ; p < 0.001$

	Yes, I have increased my remote consultations since the outbreak	No, I have not increased my remote consultations since the outbreak
Age	45.6	46.3

$t = 1.93 ; p = 0.054$

	Yes, I have increased my remote consultations since the outbreak	No, I have not increased my remote consultations since the outbreak
Male	1,627	884
Female	1,978	936

$\chi^2 = 5.62 ; p = 0.018$

	Yes, I have increased my remote consultations since the outbreak	No, I have not increased my remote consultations since the outbreak
Alone	675	360
Mono-professional	1,436	790
Multi-professional	1,494	670

$\chi^2 = 10.97 ; p = 0.004$

	Yes, I have set up a specific pathway for COVID patients	No, I have not set up a specific pathway for COVID patients
Age	44.9	46.4

$t = 4.3 ; p < 0.001$

	Yes, I have set up a specific pathway for COVID patients	No, I have not set up a specific pathway for COVID patients
Male	921	1,590
Female	1,051	1,863

$\chi^2 = .19 ; p = 0.66$

	Yes, I have set up a specific pathway for COVID patients	No, I have not set up a specific pathway for COVID patients
Alone	240	795
Mono-professional	717	1,509
Multi-professional	1,015	1,149

$$\chi^2 = 198.16; p < 0.001$$