

Supplementary A

We cross-tabulated the activity sector with the years of experience to see the distribution of respondent categories across clinical settings (see Table S1). Similar distributions of practitioners with 10-20 years and 20-30 years of experience (26%) were noted in inpatient and outpatient settings.

Table S1. The distribution of practitioners' medical experience across activity sectors.

Activity sector	Experience					Total
	0-5	5-10	10-20	20-30	Above 30	
Inpatient	10 (20%)	7 (14%)	13 (26%)	13 (26%)	7 (14%)	50
Outpatient	5 (20%)	4 (16%)	7 (28%)	5 (20%)	4 (16%)	25
Administration	1 (25%)	1 (25%)	1 (25%)	1 (25%)	0	4
Management	4 (50%)	0	3 (37.5%)	1 (12.5%)	0	8
Academic	2 (18.2%)	2 (18.2%)	2 (18.2%)	2 (18.2%)	3 (27.3%)	11
Dispensary	0	0	0	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	4
Pharmacy & pharma industry	0	0	1 (16.7%)	4 (66.7%)	1 (16.7%)	6
Private practice	1 (14.3%)	0	4 (57.1%)	1 (14.3%)	1 (14.3%)	7
Other	2 (33.3%)	0	1 (16.7%)	3 (50%)	0	6
Count	22	11	22	27	15	97

Supplementary B

Bio-ethical challenges in the COVID-19 era

This questionnaire contains five sections and will take about 10 minutes to complete. It explores the stress and bio-ethical issues experienced by healthcare practitioners in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The anonymity of your response is guaranteed. Please answer the following questions.

1. Please check the region of your present activity:

- Banat
- Bucharest
- Dobrogea
- Moldova
- Muntenia
- Oltenia
- Transylvania

2. Please check the total years of professional experience in the medical field:

- 0-5
- 5-10
- 10-20
- 20-30
- above 30

3. Please state your present occupation:

4. Please mention the current activity sector (check all that apply):

- Outpatient facilities
- Inpatient facilities
- Administration
- Management
- Academic
- Maintenance
- Dispensary
- Pharmacy and pharmaceutical industry
- Other (please specify):

5. What is your experience with COVID-19? (Please check all that apply):

- a. I had the disease – asymptomatic or with mild symptoms
 - b. I had the disease – with moderate or severe symptoms
 - c. One or more family members or close friends had the disease
 - d. I suffered the loss of a family member or a close friend due to COVID-19
 - e. I attended patients with COVID-19
 - f. I had no direct experience with COVID-19
 - g. I read a lot about the virus, disease, and vaccine
 - h. Other (please specify):
6. Throughout 2020, were you in the position of making decisions affecting others? (Please check all that apply):
- a. Yes – family members
 - b. Yes – colleagues
 - c. Yes – subordinates/staff members
 - d. Yes – patients
 - e. No
7. Please rate your general wellbeing throughout 2020 on a scale from 0 (very poor) to 100 (very high):
- 0 100
8. Throughout 2020, how much were you disturbed by any of the following:
- | | Never | Seldom | Moderate | Often | Always |
|--|-------|--------|----------|-------|--------|
| Irritability, nervousness | | | | | |
| State of concern | | | | | |
| Relaxation difficulties | | | | | |
| Anxiety, unrest | | | | | |
| Anticipation of a negative event occurring | | | | | |
9. If you were in a leadership position and a pandemic affected the country you governed, how willing would you be to sacrifice individual liberty for the common interest? Please rate your response from 0 (not at all) to 100 (very willing):
- 0 100
10. Thinking retrospectively, please rate the probability that you would recommend to another state the measures adopted by the Romanian government during the pandemic in 2020?
- 0 100
11. The following values are important to me (Please rank the values in the order of their importance, starting with 1 = most important):
- Wisdom
 - Safety
 - Love
 - Freedom
 - Health
 - Happiness
 - Honesty
 - Faith in God
 - Wealth
 - Empathy
 - Living without sin
12. In 2020, mass media information (TV, radio, and written press) was:
- a. Useful
 - b. Exaggerated
 - c. Insufficient
 - d. False
 - e. True
 - f. Helpful for overcoming this period
 - g. Not good for me
 - h. Confusing for me

13. Which of the following fundamental bio-ethical principles do you think were infringed on a social level during the SARS-COV-2 pandemic in 2020? (Please check all that apply):
- Beneficence (the imperative of doing good)
 - Nonmaleficence (the imperative of not doing harm)
 - Autonomy (the imperative of respecting patients' capacity to decide for themselves)
 - Justice (the imperative of correct resource distribution)
 - Truth (the imperative of transmitting accurate medical information)
 - None of the above
14. Which of the following bio-ethical principles did you personally infringe? (Please check all that apply):
- Beneficence (the imperative of doing good)
 - Nonmaleficence (the imperative of not doing harm)
 - Autonomy (the imperative of respecting patients' capacity to decide for themselves)
 - Justice (the imperative of correct resource distribution)
 - Truth (the imperative of transmitting accurate medical information)
 - None of the above
15. Which of the following principles would you find the hardest to infringe?
- Beneficence (the imperative of doing good)
 - Nonmaleficence (the imperative of not harming)
 - Autonomy (the imperative of respecting patients' capacity to decide for themselves)
 - Justice (the imperative of correct resource distribution)
 - Truth (the imperative of transmitting accurate medical information)
16. If you were in a leadership position, in what order would you recommend vaccinating the population against COVID-19? (Please rate the following categories in the order of importance, from 1 = most important):
- Old and sick people
 - Women and children
 - Government officials
 - Military personnel
 - HORECA personnel
 - Healthcare workers
 - Educational workers
 - Pupils and students
 - Industry personnel
 - No one
17. Please describe the most complicated bio-ethical decision you had to make in 2020:
18. Please check all the situations you have personally encountered throughout 2020:
- Infringing patients' rights (e.g., the right to informed consent, confidentiality)
 - Hospital admission without the patient's consent
 - Hospital discharge of COVID-positive patients upon request
 - Hospital discharge of a patient with delirium upon request
 - Limiting access of patients' families to the hospital
 - Neglecting non-COVID-19 patients
 - Neglecting medical assistance of patients with chronic illnesses
 - Triage of patients (selecting patients to have access to intensive care)
 - Choosing between self-protection and compliance with professional duties
 - Lack of intensive care technical utilities that led to triaging or redirecting patients to other medical centers
 - Pollution with single-use materials
 - Obtaining informed consent in the correct way (cultural limitations)
 - Administering the mandatory treatment for COVID-19 (with seemingly appropriate medication)
 - "Blind" application of protocols
 - Refusal to treat COVID-19 patients
 - Restricting access of non-COVID-19 patients to medical services and medication

- r. The stigma associated with COVID-19
- s. Managing hospital sections at surge capacity
- t. The conflict between personal beliefs (e.g., opinion on the vaccine) and the professional line of conduct
- u. Reluctance to express personal opinions as a healthcare worker
- v. No such situation

Thank you for your participation!