



# Romanian pharmacists during COVID-19 pandemic

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**E**ven from the discovery of the first case of SARS-CoV-2 infection, the pharmacists from Romania have stood in the first line in fighting this pandemic, making available their knowledge and availability for the patients. Although they have stood and continue to stay in the first line in the fight against the new coronavirus, when referring to the people in the first line, pharmacists are often left in the background.

During the pandemic times, community pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare specialists available for the patients, providing medical and pharmaceutical services, even though facing a major risk of infection, both for them and for their families. Due to the specific activity, the pharmacists could not choose teleworking or a reduced program in order to diminish the risk of contamination, as was the case of family doctors or other specialists, which, based on the government decision, were able to perform remote consultations and release online medical prescriptions during the emergency state.

Pharmacists have delivered various services, have sold the necessary treatments, have educated the patients regarding the personal hygiene methods which aim to limit the SARS-CoV-2 infection, have evaluated those suffering from chronic conditions, considering the limited access to specialized healthcare providers, and have offered counseling regarding the recommended treatment plans or the national and European available treatment protocols. Moreover, both the community and the hospital pharmacists have joined the other healthcare specialists in the continuous effort to provide the appropriate quantity of drugs and medical materials, considering the major supply difficulties encountered regarding various therapies.

In the context of the current global situation, the joint effort of pharmacists and doctors is the one that contributes to the fight against a virus whose behavior is still a challenge for the medical world.