Covid-19 in Nursing Homes
PROBLEMS AND MEASURES TAKEN BY CRISIS TEAMS

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Background

The COVID-19 epidemic presents nursing homes with major challenges. They have to make quick decisions based on limited resources and installed crisis teams, to inventorise problems, and set up measures.

This study **aims** to qualitatively map problems and measures taken in Dutch nursing homes.

Methods

Minutes from crisis management teams of nursing home organizations (N=41) are collected weekly from March 2020 onwards. From these minutes, text passages about encountered problems, measures taken, and their impact are selected and systematically coded. Weekly, thematic analysis of selected passages is performed and results are summarized.
Next, three multidisciplinary expert panels (care professionals, managers, client representatives; n=12), prioritize measures they think are most important or urgent to take at a new Covid-19 outbreak. This poster presents weeks 13 to 23 of 2020.

Results – key issues

FACT sheets
› Problems and measures from crisis management team minutes – **see here**
› Measures prioritized by expert panels – **see here**

Well-being of clients and family
- Worry and loneliness among residents (wk 21)
- Expert panel: Maintaining living room activities by turning wards into cohorts

Hygiene, care and policy
- Equipping, transporting and deploying volunteers requires attention (wk 18)
- Earlier testing but test policy still unclear and source of concern (wk20)

Personal protective equipment and material
- (Need for) greater use of PPE, but current shortage. Sterilization and reuse avoided (wk 17)
- Facemask use sometimes causes concern and raises ethical questions (wk 22)

Visitor policy
- Occasional family pressure regarding visiting, creative alternatives (wk 16)
- Expert panel: Exceptions to the general ban on visiting in the case of terminally-ill residents and other distressing cases
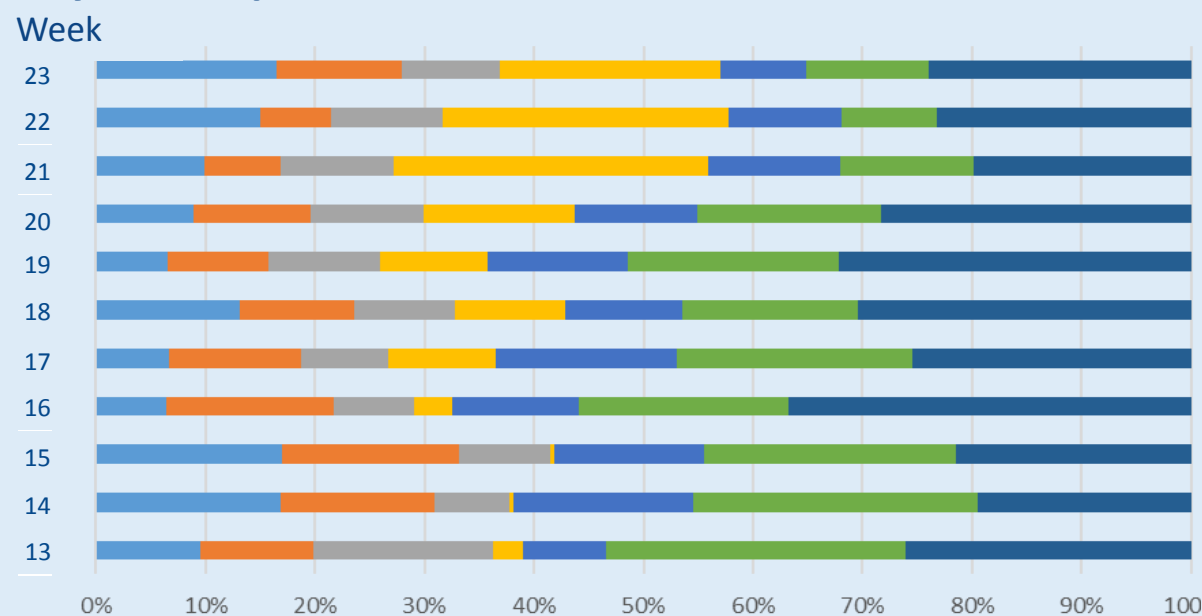
Isolation and cohorting
- More thought regarding transfer of COVID-19 patients to geriatric rehabilitation (wk17)
- Visiting arrangements cause admissions barrier, leads to vacancies (wk 23)

Allocation and well-being of personnel
- Holidays of personnel present another logistical challenge, also impacts visiting schedules (wk 22)
- Expert panel: Support for ward personnel by the organization's psychologists

Key issues per week in %

Legend:
- Situation crisis in general
- Well-being clients and family
- Hygiene, care and policy
- Allocation and well-being of personnel
- Isolation and cohorting
- visitor policy
- PPE and materials

Conclusion

Crisis team minutes are a valuable and very up to date data source that is available without requesting much time or effort. They show a large variety in problems and measures taken within nursing homes. This data will be studied more in dept.

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