

Publication**Changes in healthcare utilization during the COVID-19 pandemic and potential causes : a cohort study from Switzerland****JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)****ID** 4700032**Author(s)** Harju, E.; Speierer, A.; Jungo, K. T.; Levati, S.; Baggio, S.; Tancredi, S.; Noor, N.; Rodondi, P. Y.; Cullati, S.; Imboden, M.; Keidel, D.; Witzig, M.; Frank, I.; Kohler, P.; Kahlert, C.; Crivelli, L.; Amati, R.; Albanese, E.; Kaufmann, M.; Frei, A.; Von Wyl, V.; Puhan, M. A.; Probst-Hensch, N.; Michel, G.; Rodondi, N.; Chocano-Bedoya, P.; Corona Immunitas Res Grp,**Author(s) at UniBasel** [Imboden, Medea](#) ; [Keidel, Dirk](#) ; [Witzig, Melissa](#) ; [Probst Hensch, Nicole](#) ; [D'Acremont, Valérie](#) ; [Jeong, Ayoung](#) ; [Mösli, Nicolai](#) ; [Paris, Daniel Henry](#) ; [Vermees, Thomas](#) ;**Year** 2023**Title** Changes in healthcare utilization during the COVID-19 pandemic and potential causes : a cohort study from Switzerland**Journal** International journal of public health**Volume** 68**Pages / Article-Number** 1606010**Keywords** COVID-19; digital follow-up; healthcare utilization; healthcare delivery; population-based study**Mesh terms** Female; Humans; Young Adult; Adult; Pandemics; Switzerland, epidemiology; Cohort Studies; COVID-19, epidemiology; Patient Acceptance of Health Care; Hypertension

Objectives: To describe the frequency of and reasons for changes in healthcare utilization in those requiring ongoing treatment, and to assess characteristics associated with change, during the second wave of the pandemic. **Methods:** Corona Immunitas e-cohort study (age & GE;20 years) participants completed monthly questionnaires. We compared participants reporting a change in healthcare utilization with those who did not using descriptive and bivariate statistics. We explored characteristics associated with the number of changes using negative binomial regression. **Results:** The study included 3,190 participants from nine research sites. One-fifth reported requiring regular treatment. Among these, 14% reported a change in healthcare utilization, defined as events in which participants reported that they changed their ongoing treatment, irrespective of the reason. Reasons for change were medication changes and side-effects, specifically for hypertension, or pulmonary embolism treatment. Females were more likely to report changes [Incidence Rate Ratio (IRR) = 2.15, p = 0.002]. Those with hypertension were least likely to report changes [IRR = 0.35, p = 0.019]. **Conclusion:** Few of those requiring regular treatment reported changes in healthcare utilization. Continuity of care for females and chronic diseases besides hypertension must be emphasized.

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