

The Spanish General Medical Council's Input Regarding the Coronavirus Situation (Covid-19)

With regards to the Coronavirus epidemic, Covid-19, and in view of the current situation in Spain, the Spanish General Medical Council would like to provide the following input:

1. We reiterate our unconditional support for all the actions being carried out by the Spanish Ministry of Health in coordination with Autonomous Communities.
2. We would like to highlight the commitment and responsibility of all of the doctors in Spain in light of the consequences deriving from the Covid-19 epidemic. This commitment has been made with professionalism and surpasses our chronic demands.
3. We would like to show our recognition and support to all those affected and who are in quarantine, particularly the internal medicine specialists at the *Txagorritxu* and *Santiago* hospitals in Vitoria. This recognition extends to all professionals in the Spanish National Health System.
4. We believe that it is a priority to solve the shortages or threats of shortages of personal protective equipment, especially masks, which are essential for controlling the epidemic, as recently indicated by the Director-General of the WHO. Therefore, we request that as many extraordinary measures as possible be activated or requested, from requisitioning stocks, to centralised purchasing or the implementation of in-house manufacturing.
5. In order to meet the requirement of early diagnosis, we believe that it is essential to improve and expand diagnosis using rt-PCR in all hospitals that may accommodate patients with COVID-19.
6. It is essential to clarify whether patients are to be concentrated in monographic centres or dispersed over multiple centres, as seems to be the case at present.

7. It is essential to clarify whether home isolation of patients will be merely voluntary or compulsory. The same applies to quarantines. It should be noted that the current protocol states that "patients may live a normal life even with friends".

8. We believe that extraordinary economic budgets must be allocated, both for hiring staff and purchasing supplies, as well as for providing additional hospital beds; therefore, we consider the necessary inter-ministerial coordination to be appropriate.

9. There is an urgent need to develop a regulatory change to avoid the further consideration of quarantine leave of health staff as a common disease. Likewise, possible contagion between doctors and other health staff must always be considered as an accident at work or an occupational disease, for which we ask you to promote and initiate the necessary legislative adaptations.

10. We would like to continue to remind people that tackling this health crisis is everyone's job. Now more than ever we must make proper use of the health services and, to this end, we urge all citizens to follow the instructions issued by the Spanish Ministry of Health, the Autonomous Community Health Departments and health care centres.

In Madrid, on 6th March 2020.