

Quality of care in the prevention and treatment of communicable diseases with a particular focus on primary care.

High-quality prevention and treatment of communicable diseases are crucial for both individuals and the healthcare system. Therefore, it is essential to identify weaknesses and shortcomings in daily patient care through evidence-based research. The presentation will provide a concise overview of four projects that form part of the author's PhD thesis. Two of the projects will concentrate on the quality of care in the prevention of communicable diseases, while the other two will focus on the quality of care in the treatment of communicable diseases.

The first two projects focus on influenza vaccination uptake rates (VUR) in Switzerland. Actual influenza VUR are low in Switzerland and seasonal influenza is associated with a high mortality and morbidity. The presented projects will show and discuss actual VUR among at-risk patients before and during the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, the projects will demonstrate the possibility and limitations of conducting VUR surveillance using reimbursement data from national health insurance companies.

The remaining two projects focus on the use of antibiotics. The use of antibiotics is the main driver for increasing antimicrobial resistance rates. Accordingly, knowledge on the use of antibiotics and the appropriate use of antibiotics are of great importance to counter rising antimicrobial resistance rates. One study aims to determine whether the use of patient fact sheets on the pragmatic use of antibiotics for respiratory tract infections leads to a reduction in antibiotic prescriptions. The last study will provide a detailed breakdown of which prescriber groups actually prescribe antibiotics in the outpatient setting, marking the first time this information will be available in Switzerland.