



**Fédération Européenne
des Médecins Salariés**
European Federation
of Salaried Doctors

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The government by means of the royal decree 463/2020 of 14 March declares the “state of alert” to manage of the healthcare crisis caused by COVID-19. From that moment on, all actions and competencies are centralized in the Ministry of Health, although the execution of its decisions can be carried out by the 17 Spanish autonomous communities.

This health crisis has affected all the Autonomous Communities but not in a similar way. We understand that many elements such as geography, temperature, population densities, city characteristics, etc., have influenced. The two cities mainly affected are Madrid and Barcelona, which share many common characteristics, such as population density and a large floating population. They receive most of the international travellers from all over the world and have large transport infrastructures.

As a consequence of this crisis, almost all health care has been dedicated to COVID-19. Other pathologies are being delayed, whenever possible, for better times. The population has not made use of the emergency department either which causes a delay in actions regarding these other pathologies that will be attended as soon as the COVID crisis has disappeared. For this reason, we are asking the authorities to increase recruitment to deal with both situations and it is the right time for this to happen, as well as to expedite the completion of training of young doctors.

The crisis led to an urgent increase in Intensive Care Unit beds (ICU beds) doubling and tripling their number in those hospitals where it was possible and even establishing hospitals in “exhibition centres”, where trade fairs are hold, ,such as the IFEMA Hospital in Madrid.

During this period the professionals have developed their work in bad conditions. The resources are insufficient and there are severe shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) for coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Sometimes the equipment do not meet the required quality standards. It has been verified that equipment supplied by the Ministry of Health do not comply with regulations (Directive 89/686/EEC, transposed into Spanish law by Royal Decree 1407/1992) and must be certified in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 1591/2009 of 16 October, which regulates medical devices. This led CESM to file a complaint against the Minister of Health and all those

responsible for procurement. Another complaint was filed at the supreme court where interim measures have been granted requiring the Ministry of Health to provide the court with information every two weeks on the equipment purchased, where it has been sent and where it has been used. All this risk to which the professionals have been subjected has caused more than 42,000 professionals infected (more than 20%) and 41 doctors dying.

Currently the tests carried out on professionals are not homogeneous in number or type. It is different according to the autonomous community. Nevertheless, during this period, the professionals have had the support and appreciation of the population but we fear that once this acute phase passes we will return to cuts in rights and salaries.

Find attached a link to CESM's demands for this period after the acute phase of COVID - 19.

<http://www.cesm.org/2020/05/05/cesm-pide-compensacion-por-perdidas-y-exponereivindicaciones-para-segunda-fase-pandemia/>