

BMA SCOTLAND COVID-19 TRACKER SURVEY RESULTS

May 2020

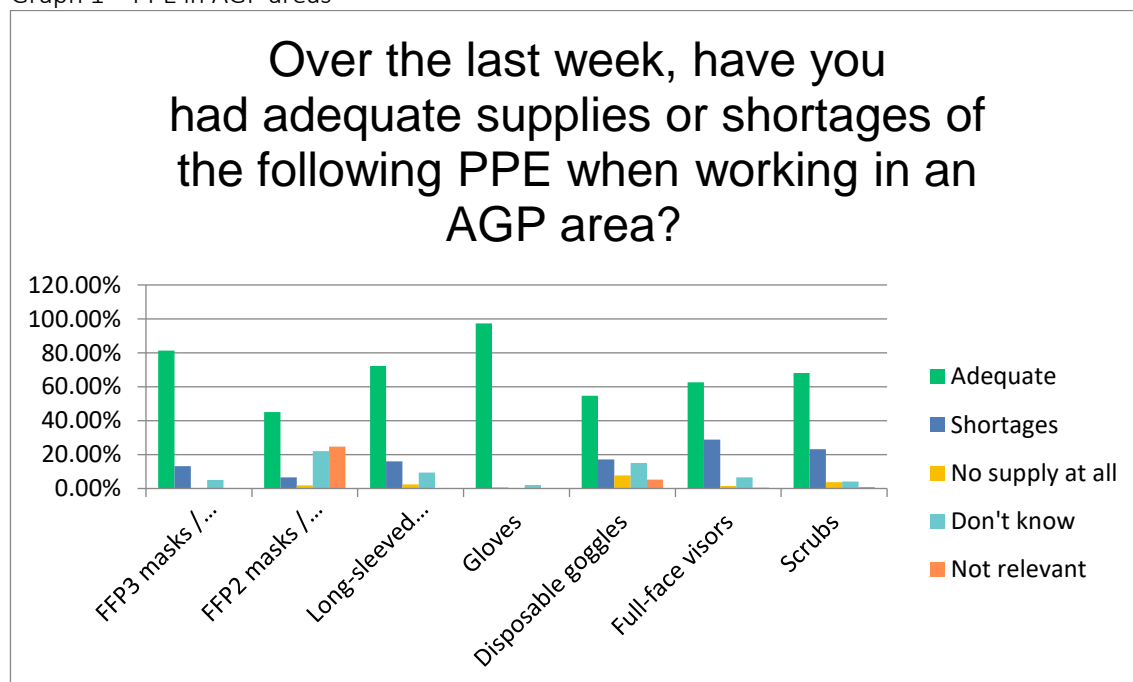
Introduction

Over the 48hour period from noon on 28 April 2020 to noon on 30 April 2020, 1351 members of BMA Scotland responded to the third fortnightly covid-19 tracker survey. The profile of these respondents matches closely with the population of doctors in Scotland, showing a reasonable spread across health boards, place of work (62% hospital, and 35% GP/community), branch of practice (29% consultants, 28% GP, 29% junior doctor, and 14% SAS doctor or other).

PPE

For those respondents (341) who work in an Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP) area, 29% reported shortages in full-face visors, while 23% reported shortages in scrubs. 13% reported shortages in FFP3 masks and 16% reported shortages in Long-sleeved disposable gowns.

Graph 1 – PPE in AGP areas



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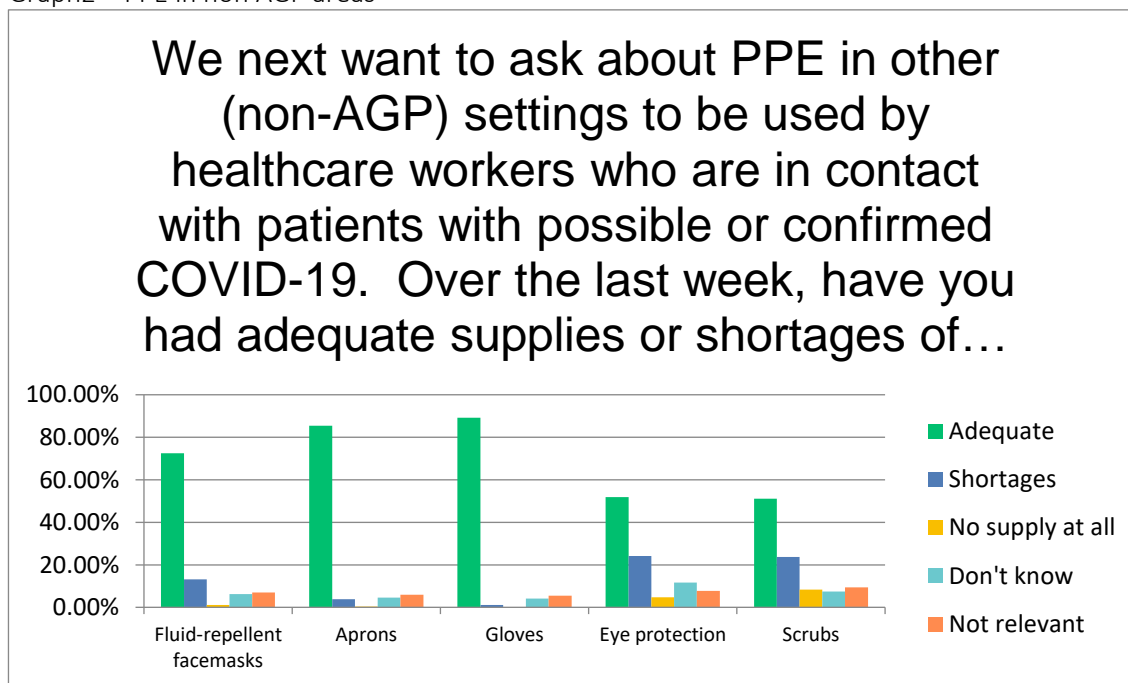
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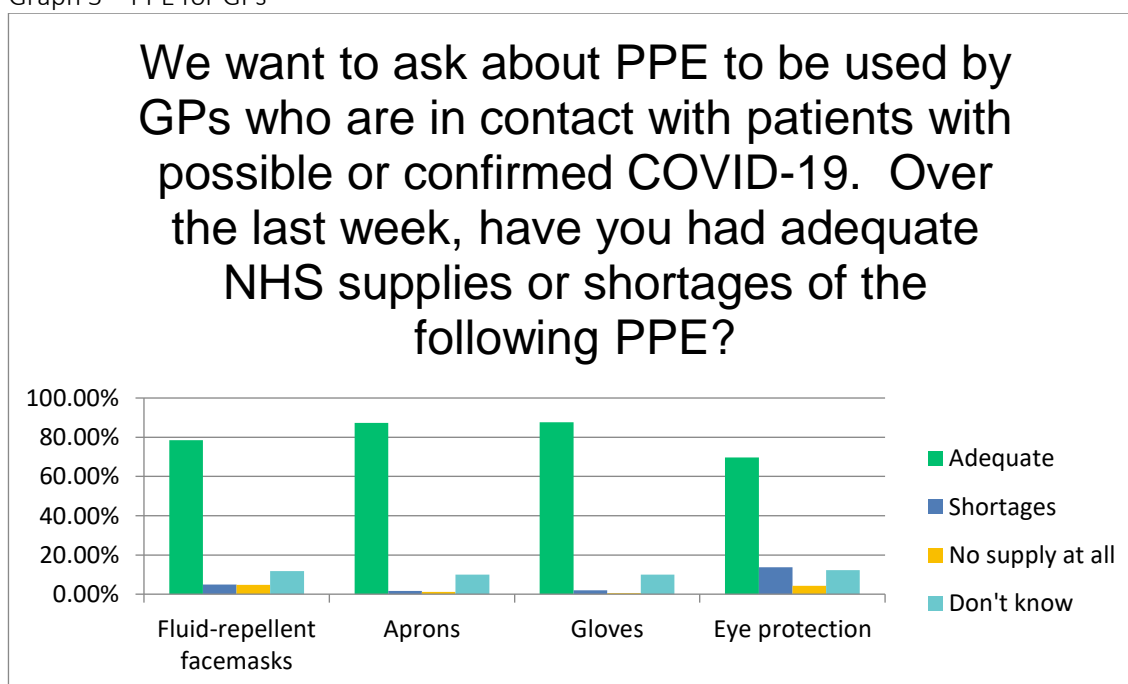
For those working in non AGP areas (765) the figures were similar with the most significant shortages reported in eye protection (24%) and scrubs (24%).

Graph2 – PPE in non AGP areas



We also asked GPs about their experience of PPE supply (443) and found that there were fewer reported shortages, with the most significant being for eye protection (14%).

Graph 3 – PPE for GPs



Taking everything into account, respondents were asked to report whether they felt safely protected from coronavirus in their place of work. Of the 1202 who answered this question, **36% said they felt fully protected** – this represents a promising increase of 14% since the previous BMA tracker survey 2 weeks ago. However, 56% felt partially protected, and 5% said they did not feel protected at all.

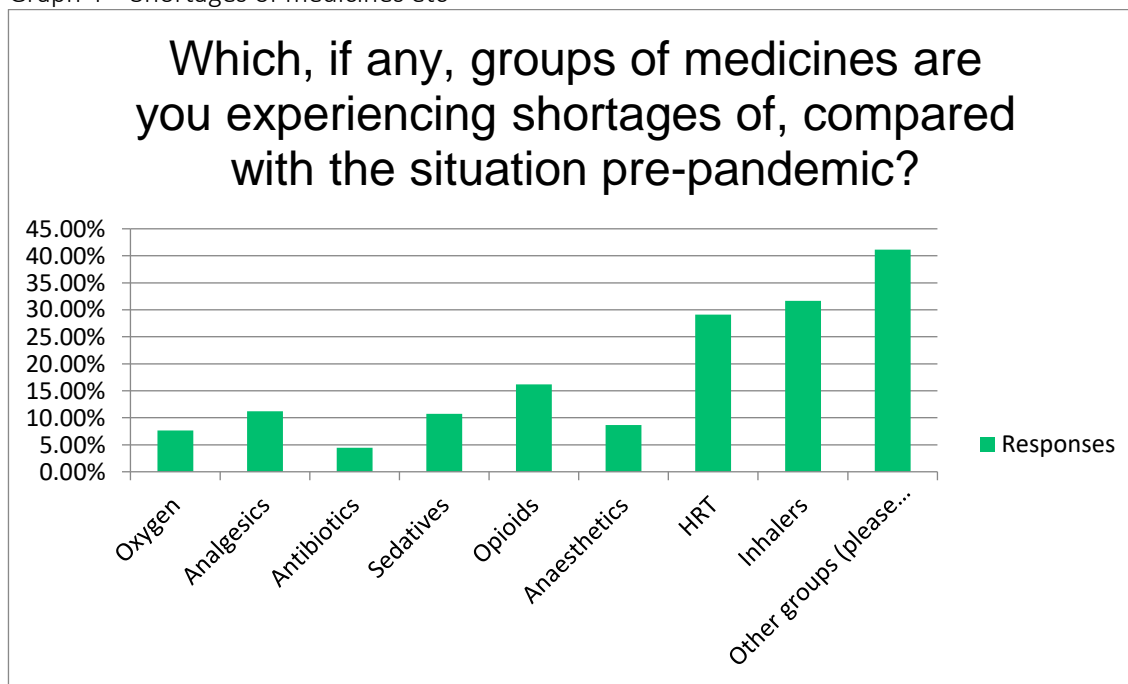
Testing

Members were asked about their experience of getting access to testing for Coronavirus over the previous week – 87% had not tried/needed to secure testing. Of those who had (138), 82% reported that the testing was accessible, timely and convenient.

Availability of medicines/gases etc

In terms of availability of medicines, medical gases (e.g. oxygen) and other therapeutics, almost 20% of respondents reported some shortages in their place of work. The most frequently reported shortages reported at the time of the survey were inhalers (32%), HRT (29%) and opioids (16%).

Graph 4 – Shortages of medicines etc



Impact on care for non covid-19 patients

Looking to the impact on care for patients with no Covid-19 symptoms, 55% of respondents reported that this was worsening due to the prioritisation of patients with possible or confirmed covid-19 symptoms.

Table 1 – Impact on care of non covid-19 patients

To what extent is prioritisation of patients with possible or confirmed COVID-19 in your place of work or the local NHS affecting the care available to those patients with no COVID-19 symptoms?

Significantly worsening	27%
Slightly worsening	28%
Neither worsening nor improving	18%
Slightly improving	3%
Significantly improving	1%
Too soon to know	11%
Don't know	12%

Doctors wellbeing

Respondents were asked about the impact of the pandemic on their psychological wellbeing, and in particular whether they were currently suffering from any depression, anxiety, stress, burnout, emotional distress or other mental health conditions relating to or made worse by their work. 1171 respondents answered this question, of which 25% responded that they were, and that this had become worse during the pandemic. A further 15% also reported suffering from some of these conditions, but that this was no worse than it had been before the pandemic. This means that almost 40% of the doctors responding to the survey are experiencing some level of mental health condition currently.

Table 2 – Doctors suffering from mental health conditions

During this pandemic, do you consider that you are currently suffering from any of depression, anxiety, stress, burnout*, emotional distress or other mental health condition relating to or made worse by your work?

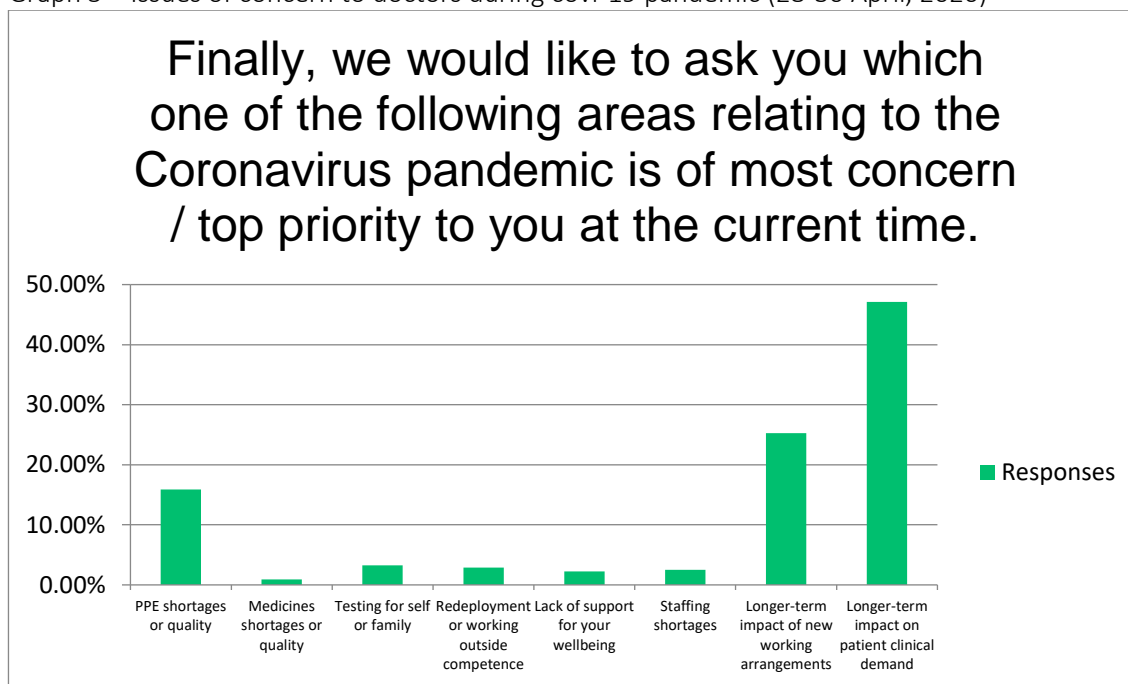
Yes - and worse during this pandemic than before	25%
Yes - but no worse than before this pandemic	15%
No	52%
Don't know	5%
Prefer not to say	3%

Issues of most concern to doctors at this stage of Covid-19 pandemic

Finally, respondents were asked to identify the issue causing them most concern relating to the coronavirus at the current time. Almost half of the respondents to this question (1115) stated that the longer-term impact on patient clinical demand was their top concern (47%), while a further 25% were most concerned about the longer-term impact of the pandemic of the new working arrangements, suggesting that doctors place concern about the longer term impact

above concerns even about themselves. Shortages or quality of PPE was cited as the most concerning issue for 16% of the respondents.

Graph 5 – Issues of concern to doctors during covi-19 pandemic (28-30 April, 2020)



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