

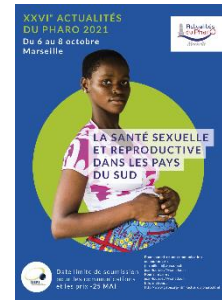
Actualités du Pharo 2021 – Session 6

Prevention of Covid19 infection in people with diabetes in Mali and Burkina Faso

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The available scientific information shows that diabetes does not increase the risk of COVID-19 infection. However, it does show that people with diabetes whose disease management is not optimal are at risk of developing more severe forms of COVID-19. In Africa, this concern is heightened for people with diabetes because they often have less well-controlled diabetes and other associated co-morbidities such as obesity and high blood pressure. In order to prevent COVID-19 infection and diabetes-related complications, Santé Diabète has set up a specific COVID-19 / Diabetes prevention and patient follow-up programme in Burkina Faso and Mali. This programme has three strategic axes:

1. Setting up prevention campaigns for people "at risk".

Santé Diabète has set up a specific follow-up programme for people with diabetes in Burkina Faso and Mali. This prevention programme, which is entirely free of charge for people, is based on several axes: access to information for more than 2,500 people with diabetes, through an SMS campaign specifically targeting these patients. In parallel, a prevention campaign in the media aimed to reach a larger number of patients.

2. Setting up tele-consultation for people "at risk".

Then, a "tele-consultation" programme was made available to people with diabetes who wished to do so through Whatsapp platforms with specialist diabetic or endocrinological doctors. The aim was to carry out teleconsultations to enhance prevention and better monitor the evolution of the chronic disease, while avoiding the need to travel to health facilities if the need is not urgent.

3. Staffing of patients and securing the supply of insulin to avoid any rupture.

In parallel, Santé Diabète has set up a partnership with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to provide masks for all patients with diabetes. Finally, hand in hand with the Burkinabe and Malian health authorities, Santé Diabète worked to ensure that the supply of insulin was secure at a time when most countries in the world were experiencing a lock down.