Impact of COVID-19 vaccinations in Dutch nursing homes
Back to normal?

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Nursing homes closed nationally on March 20th 2020

In the southern part of the Netherlands, organizations closed from March 10th
Ban for visitors

• Highly restrictive measure
  – No family/friends/volunteers allowed
  – Only health services if highly necessary

• Creative alternatives
  – E.g. window visiting, separate container

• BUT serious challenge to residents’ autonomy

• Primary data lacking
Original Study

Allowing Visitors Back in the Nursing Home During the COVID-19 Crisis: A Dutch National Study Into First Experiences and Impact on Well-Being

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From wave to wave: a Dutch national study on the long-term impact of COVID-19 on well-being and family visitation in nursing homes

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New survey
March/April 2021

Aim: Assess the impact of vaccinations on daily life and family visitation in Dutch nursing homes
Background

• Residents and staff of nursing homes were among the first to be vaccinated against COVID-19

• Start vaccination nursing home residents: January 18, 2021
Results (1)

- 59 / 76 nursing homes responded (78%)

- Vaccination status residents (March/April 2021):
  - On average, 77% of residents within a nursing home were fully vaccinated
  - Often, over 80% of residents were fully vaccinated
  - In 20% of nursing homes: less than 60% of residents fully vaccinated

- Reasons for low vaccination rates among residents:
  - Most mentioned: still waiting for the second dose
  - Minority: fragile health status, no consent from family members, fear of side effects, low confidence in vaccination
Results (2)

- Vaccination status of staff: due to privacy regulations, not known exactly

- 2/3 of respondents indicated that they can give a reliable estimation:
  - On average, they estimated that 65% of staff in their nursing home was vaccinated (great variation between homes)

- Reasons for low vaccination rates:
  - Pregnancy or wish to become pregnant or breastfeeding
  - Fear of side effects
  - Fear of long-term effects of vaccination
Results (3)

- 70% of nursing homes: protective measures less restrictive after vaccinations
  - Still: no hugs between residents and family allowed, family is not allowed to stay for dinner, family is only welcome during ‘visiting hours’, etc.

- Normalization of activities:
  - Resident-resident interaction
  - Less volunteers than before the pandemic
Conclusion

• Even after vaccination, ‘normality’ had not been reached
  – No plans on how to ‘normalize’

• Family visits still differ (compared to pre-pandemic)

• Is family still seen as a ‘risk factor’?

• Tailor-made solutions necessary: How to reach ‘normality’?
Partners:

- UKON
- MeanderGroep
- GildeZorgcollege
- VIVANTES Ouderenzorg
- Sevagram
- Zuyderland
- Envida
- Cicero Zorggroep
- Zuyd Onderzoek
- ZU
- Mosae Zorggroep
- VISTA College
- Maastricht University