

An Overview of the COVID-19 Pandemic: From Turkey in Terms of HIM Perspective

The pandemic has affected Turkey for a long time as well as the whole world. As HIM educators, we have experienced this effect both in the management of health information and in the education processes. Therefore, our aim in this article is to overview what experienced in Turkey during the Pandemic through our viewpoint.

Pandemic in Turkey

On February 11, 2020, WHO declared the disease COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019); The International Committee on Virus Taxonomy has also named the virus SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2). In Turkey, the “2019-nCoV Disease Health Care Workers Guide” was published by the Ministry of Health (MH) on January 24. The first case report was made on March 10; and on April 9, the treatment of COVID-19 cases was included in the scope of “emergency”.

HIM in the Pandemic

With today's technological opportunities and systematic structure, the public was able to follow the pandemic process from both traditional and social media and the explanations of the experts were easily accessible. With the "Hayat Eve Sığar-HES" (Life Fits Home) application, every citizen has the opportunity to access information about the pandemic. With the "HES" code that can be produced in practice, it has also been used to control social contagion.

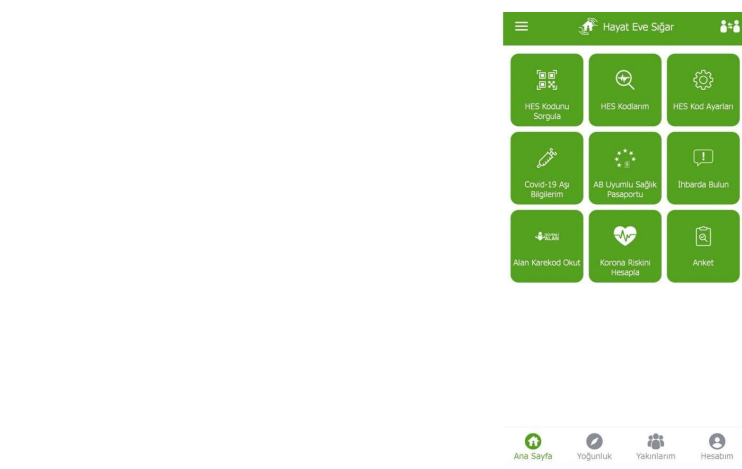


Figure 1: The "Hayat Eve Sığar-HES" (Life Fits Home) App.

WHO announced the ICD code update for COVID-19 on March 25 and recommended the use of these codes to all of the member countries. In Turkey, MH published its first guide on the diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of COVID-19 on January 24, 2020, and updated its guides and algorithms during the pandemic process.

The suspicious cases in Turkey were entered into the Public Health Management System with the diagnosis code U07.3. Samples were requested from these patients for case detection. Department of Social Security Practices of MH stated that in accordance with ICD-10 AM Standards, should be recorded patients with COVID-19 virus (positive test result) with the code U07.3 and patients with unconfirmed COVID-19 (negative test result) with U06 disease code.

Education and Academic Experience in the Pandemic: Opportunities and Barriers

The pandemic has led to the necessity of distance communication in both education and professional cooperation. In the pandemic process in Turkey, distance education platforms have provided contributions such as meeting the need for education without interruption, protection against the transmission of the disease, increasing the use of technology in education and training, and developing technological skills.

In many universities, courses in distance education have been uploaded to the lesson systems with live lectures and video recordings, and methods such as asking instant questions and receiving/giving feedback, homework sharing have been used according to the system facilities used.

Although it is thought that the distance education model, which has turned into a necessity rather than a choice in higher education, makes it difficult for students to receive education, it has also contributed significantly. These include connecting to the lesson from anywhere, application-supported accessibility, providing a comfortable learning environment, the opportunity to listen to the lesson again, and note-taking for students. For academicians, time and economic savings were achieved through online seminars and conferences. The disadvantages encountered are:

- Inequalities of opportunity in education,
- Lack of computer and internet access,
- Insufficient resources,
- The unpreparedness for the distance education process,
- Loss of attention and motivation,
- Difficulties of measurement and evaluation,
- Communication and interaction inadequacy,
- Technical problems,
- The inadequacy of group interaction,
- Difficulty in controlling.

Despite all its difficulties, we think that we have turned the pandemic crisis into an opportunity in terms of professional cooperation opportunities. In this context, we met HIM students and academics hosted by Ankara University in a series of virtual conferences. In these conferences,

important steps were taken towards professional development and cooperation. Recording of the conferences are available at the address below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHwM7dnEYJEV6ThwiKdN7lg>



Figure 2: Ankara University in a series of virtual conferences on HIM.



Figure 3: Ankara University in a virtual conference on ICD 10 in Pandemic.

Authors:

Perihan ŞENEL TEKİN, Assist. Prof, Ankara University, Turkey, ptekin@ankara.edu.tr

İrem ŞENSES, Lecturer, Altınbaş University, Turkey, irem.senses@altinbas.edu.tr