

Abstract

# Estimation of Out-of-Pocket Expenditure on COVID-19 Management Among Patients Treated at Home, Iraq, 2020

Falah Abdul kader Saeed<sup>1</sup>; Faris Lami<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Iraqi Ministry of Health, Baghdad, Iraq

<sup>2</sup>Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Baghdad, Iraq

**Corresponding Author:**

Falah Abdul kader Saeed

Iraqi Ministry of Health

Al-Rusafa

Baghdad

Iraq

Phone: 964 7702526770

Email: [falaah.abd1300a@comed.uobaghdad.edu.iq](mailto:falaah.abd1300a@comed.uobaghdad.edu.iq)

## Abstract

**Background:** There is a global consensus that the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 crisis has had a substantial effect on health programs and health insurance, with losses of jobs and rising prices causing growing poverty.

**Objective:** This study aims to estimate the out-of-pocket expenditure spent on the management of patients with COVID-19 exclusively treated at home.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted, and data were collected from participating patients with COVID-19 in Iraq through snowball sampling by using a questionnaire. Enrollment occurred from November 1 to December 31, 2020, and excluded individuals who were entering the hospitals.

**Results:** Among 589 participating patients with COVID-19, 328 (55.7%) were female. Female patients spent more than male patients to get cured of the illness; the mean amount of money spent by women was statistically higher than men (IQD 644,617 [US \$402] and IQD 461,653 [US \$307], respectively). The average total money expenditures spent was IQD 643,304 (US \$428; range IQD 505,096-5,595,000 [US \$336-US \$3730]) among patients exclusively treated at home. The average money spent by patients with inadequate monthly income (IQD 901,424 [US \$600], range IQD 220,000-5,260,000 [US \$140-US \$3500]) was significantly more than patients with adequate monthly income (IQD 613,252 [US \$400], range IQD 48,000-5,500,000 [US \$32-US \$3600]). Patients with COVID-19 (25.5%) who had chronic diseases spent significantly more money (IQD 696,330 [US \$460]) than those without the chronic disease (IQD 625,185 [US \$416]).

**Conclusions:** Financial burdens affected the purchasing power and the economic situation on the management of patients with COVID-19 exclusively treated at home.

(*iproc* 2022;8(1):e36382) doi: [10.2196/36382](https://doi.org/10.2196/36382)

**KEYWORDS**

poverty; out-of-pocket expenditure; chronic diseases; cross-section study

*Edited by Y Khader; this is a non-peer-reviewed article. Submitted 12.01.22; accepted 17.01.22; published 04.02.22.*

*Please cite as:*

Abdul kader Saeed F, Lami F

Estimation of Out-of-Pocket Expenditure on COVID-19 Management Among Patients Treated at Home, Iraq, 2020

*iproc* 2022;8(1):e36382

URL: <https://www.iproc.org/2022/1/e36382>

doi: [10.2196/36382](https://doi.org/10.2196/36382)

PMID:

©Falah Abdul kader Saeed, Faris Lami. Originally published in Iproceedings (<https://www.iproc.org>), 04.02.2022. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work, first published in Iproceedings, is properly cited. The complete bibliographic information, a link to the original publication on <https://www.iproc.org/>, as well as this copyright and license information must be included.