

## **Health Professionals' perspectives on medication-related problems of travellers: The MEDication safety of TRavellers (METRA) Interview study**

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### **Background:**

International travel became more accessible for travellers with chronic conditions and long-term medication [1–3]. Medication safety and, particularly, medication-related problems (MRPs) play a vital role in the prevention of avoidable harm in medication use [4]. Very little is known about how MRPs are addressed in pre-travel consultations and what support measures are desired by health professionals providing travel health advice [5].

The objective is to explore the experiences of health professionals in Switzerland with MRPs, how they are addressed in travel consultations, overall challenges and their desired support measures.

### **Materials and Methods:**

Semi-structured interviews with health professionals in Switzerland, including primary care physicians and nurses, are in progress until summer 2026. The interviews are audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. Kuckartz's structured qualitative content analysis approach is used to inductively classify emerging categories [6].

### **Results:**

Findings from interviews with eight pharmacists in the German-speaking part of Switzerland suggest that the structure, scope and content of pharmacist-led travel consultations differs greatly. Potential MRPs, such as interactions between travel and long-term medication, were usually not assessed in the context of travel consultations. Challenges and desired support measures comprise, for instance, further guidance on maintaining cooling chains of temperature-sensitive medications.

### **Conclusion:**

Preliminary results from interviews with pharmacists suggest that MRPs of travellers are not commonly addressed in travel health consultations. Future studies should investigate the occurrence and nature of MRPs experienced by travellers and how health professionals can contribute to prevent potential MRPs.