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Dear Editor,

Please accept our manuscript entitled “Integrated 3D printing solution to mitigate shortages of airway consumables and personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic” to be considered for publication in BMC Health Services Research. This paper can have a significant impact on public health by showing how hospitals around the world can mitigate temporary shortages in medical equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, given the nature of this work and the context of the pandemic, we strongly believe that it would be appropriate to publish it ideally in an open access journal.

We implemented a collaborative nonprofit solution to identify, validate, regulate, manufacture, and distribute 3D-printed medical equipment in short supply when Spain was being ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic. To enable regional hospitals to request supplies, we created an online catalogue of 3D-printed consumables, including the files necessary to manufacture them so that hospitals around the world with a 3D printing system could benefit.

Our paper describes this initiative and its impact in Spain. We discuss the organization and implementation of this fully integrated supply system of medically validated 3D printing solutions as well as regulatory considerations and explain how a 70 “manufacturers” (a wide variety of companies and organizations from diverse sectors) used 3D printers to supply more than 20,000 items to hospitals in our region in record time. The information in our paper will enable similar solutions to be applied anywhere in the current pandemic or in future health crises. Publication in your journal will ensure that this potential game changer reaches a broad audience. If you consider that this work is more appropriate to be published in other formats (e.g. health policy), we are open to consider it.

We assure you that the information in this manuscript has not been published elsewhere. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree to submit it to your journal.

We thank you for considering this paper and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

*Ferran Fillat-Gomà, MD May 30, 2020*