

#### ORIGINAL RESEARCH

## Patient Satisfaction and Associated Factors During COVID-19 Pandemic in North Shoa Health Care **Facilities**

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Background: Patient satisfaction is an indicator of healthcare quality service and involved as an outcome measure. Quality of healthcare service and patient satisfaction has been affected by the current coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. It induced uncertainness and shortage of medical supplies due to a limited global movement. Therefore, this study aimed to assess patient satisfaction and associated factors among chronic patients who had a follow-up in North Shoa healthcare facilities.

Methods: An institutional-based cross-sectional study was used to select 410 study participants through a systematic random sampling technique. Data were collected by a structured interviewer-administered questionnaire, entered into Epi Info version 7, and transported to SPSS version 23 for analysis. Bivariable and multivariable logistic regressions were used to identify the factors associated with satisfaction. The odds ratio with a 95% confidence interval was computed, and p-value < 0.05 was considered statistical significance in the multivariable model.

Results: The overall level of patient satisfaction was 44.6%. The presence of sign and direction indicators (AOR=3.26, 95% CI=1.1, 9.92), obtaining some ordered drugs (AOR=3.7, 95% CI=1.1, 12.54), getting alcohol for hand cleaning (AOR=2.66, 95% CI=1.1,6.65), obtaining sanitizer for hand cleaning (AOR=4.45, 95% CI=1.72,11.52), and maintaining social distancing (AOR=2.63, 95% CI=1.21, 5.70) were factors associated with patient's satisfaction.

Conclusion: The level of patient satisfaction was very low during a COVID-19 pandemic. The presence of sign and direction indicators, availability of drugs, social distancing, availability of alcohol, and sanitizer were factors associated with patient satisfaction. The intervention targeted at increasing patient satisfaction and improving the quality of service during COVID-19 through maintaining social distancing and availing alcohol or sanitizers is necessary.

**Keywords:** patient satisfaction, COVID-19, associated factors, Ethiopia

## **Background**

Satisfaction is a unit of similarity between patient beliefs of ideal care and their observations of real care received. Patient satisfaction is the degree to which patients are pleased with their healthcare, both inside and outside healthcare facilities.<sup>2</sup> It gives providers insights into various healthcare features, including the effectiveness of their care and their level of understanding.<sup>3</sup> Understanding the patients, caregivers, and families from their perspective is an opportunity to reflect provider behavior (politeness and respect), improvement of healthcare services, and patient outcomes.<sup>4,5</sup>

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In most low-resourced countries, healthcare systems suffer from severe shortages of financing, low equity and quality, and poorly prepared to meet the challenges of the current COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>6</sup> The COVID-19 is an acute respiratory tract infection that emerged in late 2019. It has flu-like symptoms, such as fever, cough, the difficulty of breathing, fatigue, and muscle pain.8

The global health coverage faced critical challenges with increased non-communicable diseases adding to the global burden of diseases and may not successful care noticed as an ambitious performance Additionally, the COVID-19 disease is one of the global burdens affecting 99% of chronic disease patients, which have a preexisting condition (heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, advanced age, and kidney disease) have been dying due to the current pandemic.<sup>12</sup>

World Health Organization (WHO) announced in March 2020 to minimize community transmission of COVID-19 through practicing social distance, frequent hand washing, and reduce population density in a healthcare setting as a means of COVID-19 prevention. 13 Ethiopia is at high risk of transmitting the pandemic; our communities are densely populated with informal dwellings, lack of access to clean water, shared sanitation facilities, high social mixing levels, and transient residents. 14 The poor healthcare systems may aggravate the outbreak's impact and limit the capacity to conduct adequate surveillance and control.<sup>15</sup>

Evaluating the extent to which patients are satisfied with healthcare services is clinically significant, as satisfied patients are more likely to comply with treatment. <sup>16</sup> In contrast, the effect of COVID-19 has been reducing procedure and treatment adherence, increase treatment dissatisfaction, and discontinue their treatment follow-up. 17,18 The outcome of unmet client needs can be problematic since it causes a lack of confidence in the healthcare system and healthcare providers. 19,20

In resourced countries, patient needs during COVID-19 can be managed by telemedicine, which is vital to deliver methods of infection control and compliance to social distancing, appropriate use of mask and hand hygiene, or sanitizer.21,22 Telemedicine also increases healthcare coverage through emails, telephone, and video calls to minimize patient travel to healthcare facilities, time-saving, and cost-effective with increased patient satisfaction. 23-25

The Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health implemented Compassionate Respectful Care (CRC) as one of the healthcare sector transformation plan to increase client

satisfaction and health service quality.<sup>26</sup> However, the satisfaction of chronic patients and quality of service is currently affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, imposing a shortage of medical supplies and uncertainness of being infected due to limited global movement from one country to another.

As COVID-19 continues to spread, health professionals and the COVID-19 Prevention and Control Committee may become busy and regular service can be forgotten. These circumstances can extremely affect the quality of health service and client satisfaction exceptionally from the previous one. Patient satisfaction is considered one of the anticipated outcomes of healthcare, and it is directly related to the utilization of health services. Nevertheless, there is no adequate information on users' perception of the healthcare facilities' services after the emergence of COVID-19, especially in Ethiopia. Therefore, this study aimed to assess patient satisfaction and associated factors during the COVID-19 pandemic among chronic patients who had follow-up at public health facilities in the North Shoa Zone, Oromia region, Ethiopia.

#### **Methods**

### Study Design, Period and Area

An institutional-based cross-sectional study was conducted from May 1 to June 30, 2020, in North Shoa public health facilities. The North Shoa zone is one of 20 zones found in the Oromia regional state. It has 13 woredas and two towns' administration, with a total of 1.6 million populations. The zone has five public hospitals and 57 health centers that give services for the catchment area population.

## Source and Study Population

All patients with chronic disease who had follow-up at North Shoa public health facilities in the North Shoa Zone were the source population. All randomly selected patients with chronic disease who had follow-up at North Shoa public health facilities in the North Shoa Zone were the study population.

#### Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

All patients whose ages greater than 15 years and who have a chronic disease (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes mellitus, chronic respiratory disease, and chronic musculoskeletal diseases) follow-up for more than six months at North Shoa public

health facilities were included in the study. Those patients with chronic diseases who were seriously sick (unable to speak) and suspected COVID-19 (who had come for chronic disease follow-up and have signs and symptoms' of COVID-19 during the screening) were excluded from the study.

## Sample Size Determination and Sampling Procedure

The sample size was calculated using a single population proportion formula, taking a proportion of 58.3% of the study conducted in Bahirdar city.<sup>27</sup> Considering a 95% confidence interval and a 5% marginal error with a 10% non-response rate, the final sample size was 412. The study was conducted in three hospitals and four health centers selected purposely because they have a high number of patients with chronic diseases in the North Shoa zone. The total estimated number of patients for one month obtained from chronic disease patients' department registration books was 10,800 (2500 from Fitche General Hospital, 2000 from Kuyu General Hospital, 2100 from Chancho Primary Hospital, 1000 from Debire Tsige Health Center, 1200 from Muke Turi Health Center, 1200 from Wara Jarso Health Center and 800 Hambiso Health Center). The proportional allocation was done by multiplying the number of chronic disease patients from all hospitals and health centers (10,800) with a total sample size (n=412), divided by the total number of chronic patients attending each health facility. The study participants were selected at each public health facility using a systematic random sampling technique every obtained interval for each health facility using patient registration as a sampling frame. The first participant was selected by the lottery method, depending on the obtained interval.

#### Data Collection Tools and Procedure

Data was collected through direct face to face interviews by semi-structured questionnaires, which were developed from earlier similar articles.<sup>27–29</sup> The questionnaire was prepared in English and translated to Afan Oromo and Amharic language for better understanding for both data collectors and respondents, and translated back to the English version to check the consistency. The questionnaire has socio-demographic characteristics, service-related inquiries, the relationship between the service providers and patients, the physical environment, COVID-19 prevention, and control related variables questions. Seven

BSC nurses and four public heaths were recruited for data collection and supervision, respectively. Four days of training were given to data collectors and supervisors on the study's objective, the questionnaire's contents, confidentiality, respondents' right, and how to collect data. The pretest was done among 21 (5%) of the sample at Kuyu Health Center. Data collectors and supervisors were discussed with principle investigators on the questionnaire and modified for any inconsistencies and ambiguity before actual data collection.

We collected data from non-communicable and communicable chronic diseases, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes mellitus, chronic respiratory disease, and chronic musculoskeletal diseases.

The outcome of patient satisfaction was measured using satisfaction measurement tools. It contains 34 items on a five-point Likert scale scored from 1 to 5 (1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree), which together yield a minimum of 34 and a maximum of 170. A response to 34 measuring items was added and converted to give an individual level of satisfaction score from 1% to 100% for each item. Patients who scored 75% and above on 34 satisfaction measuring items were satisfied, and those who scored less than 75% were unsatisfied.<sup>28,29</sup>

## Data Processing and Analysis

After data collection, data were checked for completeness and coded, cleaned, and entered into Epi Info version-7 and transported to SPSS version 23 for data cleaning and analysis. Descriptive statistics such as tables, graphs, pie charts, and proportions were used to present the data. Patients who have satisfied were scored as "1" whiles those who have dissatisfied were scored as "0". Bivariable and multivariable in binary logistic regression analyses were done to see the association between dependent and independent variables. The test's model goodness was checked by Hosmer-Lemeshow goodness fit, and the p-value for the model fitness test was 0.850.

#### Ethical Consideration

This study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Salale University approved the ethical clearance of verbal informed consent and assent. A support letter was granted from the North Shoa zone health office, and oral informed consent was obtained from the study participants whose age  $\geq 18$  years. The assent was obtained from parents/guardians for 15 to 18 years old

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after clearing-up about the study's objective and purpose for each study participant. The privacy and confidentiality of study participants were also be maintained strictly. Data collectors were informed about coding the questionnaire and not writing the study participants' names.

#### Results

## Socio-Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Respondents

A total of 410 chronic disease patients participated in a response rate of 99.5%. Out of total study participants, 215 (52.4%) were male, and 175 (42.8%) of the respondents were aged more than 45 years old. More than half of the study respondents were not attended formal education, and 349 (85.1%) of study participants were orthodox by religion. Oromo ethnic groups were the majority (87.1%). Nearly two-thirds of the respondents earned ≤2000 Ethiopian Birr monthly [Table 1].

Of the total study participants, one-third of the participants 139 (33.9%) have a follow-up of HIV/AIDS cases, followed by hypertension 76 (18.5%), tuberculosis 72 (17.6%), and diabetes mellitus 60 (14.6%) [Figure 1].

## HealthCare Services Related Characteristics of the Study Participants

More than two-thirds of study participants were ordered for laboratory tests, and 43.8% of study participants wait for an average of 15 to 29 minutes to get the laboratory results [Figure 2].

Nearly half 190 (46.3%) of the respondents have free healthcare access covered by their woreda. More than twothirds of the study participants had educated to maintain their healthy life modification. More than half of the study participants 154 (53.1%) had purchased drugs/supplies from the health facilities. X-rays or ultra-sounds were ordered for 161 (39.3%) participants, but only 65 (40.4%) of the study participants had obtained the ordered x-rays or ultrasounds at public health facilities. Threefourth of clients reported as the health facilities they are attending had no sign and direction indicators [Table 2].

## COVID-19 Prevention and Control-Related Characteristics of the Study Participants

Of the total respondents, 365 (89%) of study participants have noticed the availability of water at the health facility

**Table I** Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Chronic Diseases Patients Who Had a Follow-Up Visit at Health Facilities in North Shoa Zone, Oromia Region, from May I to June 30, 2020

Variables	Variables Number of Perce		
	Participants	(%)	
Sa.,			
Sex Male	215	52.4%	
Female	195	47.6%	
гептате	173	77.0%	
Age			
15–24	36	8.8%	
25–34	97	23.7%	
35–44	102	24.8%	
>45	175	42.7%	
Residence			
Urban	202	49.3%	
Rural	208	50.7%	
Level of education			
Has no formal	212	51.7%	
education	_		
Primary school	91	22.2%	
completed			
Grade 9–12 completed	46	11.2%	
Diploma and above	61	14.9%	
Marital Status			
Married	295	72%	
Widowed	30	7.3%	
Single	62	15.1%	
Divorced	23	5.6%	
Family size			
≤ 5	323	78.8%	
>5	87	21.2%	
Religion			
Orthodox	349	85.1%	
Protestant	42	10.3%	
Wakefata	3	0.7%	
Muslim	15	3.7%	
Other	1	0.2%	
Occupational status			
Farmer	166	40.5%	
Government employee	71	17.3%	
Private employee	39	9.5%	
Merchant	30	7.3%	
Housewife	67	16.4%	
Student	20	4.9%	
Other	17	4.1%	
Family monthly income	3/0	<b>75.</b>	
≤ 2000	268	65.4	
2001–5000	104	25.4	
5001–8000	29	7.0 2.2	
≥ 8001	7	۷.۷	

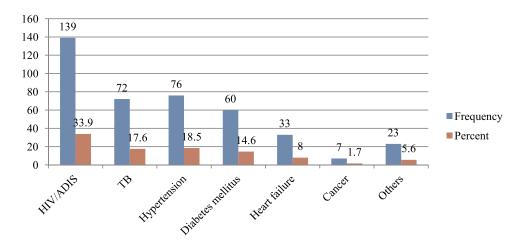


Figure I Types of chronic diseases patients who had follow-up visit at health facilities in North Shoa zone, Oromia region, from May I to June 30, 2020.

## Waiting time



Figure 2 Waiting time to get laboratory services and results for chronic diseases patients who had follow-up visit at health facilities in North Shoa zone, Oromia region, from May I to June 30, 2020 (n=410).

entrance and washed their hands before entry to a health facility. Nearly two-thirds of participants have observed and maintained physical distance at registration, waiting area, laboratory, and pharmacy areas. Regarding clinicians wearing gloves and masks, participants have mentioned 80.5% and 89.5% of clinicians wearing gloves and masks, respectively, while providing healthcare services. More than two-thirds of healthcare facilities had no hand cleaning alcohol at the entrance of their compounds. Only 56 (14.4%) of the study participants were reported the availability of COVID-19 screening services at healthcare facilities [Table 3].

#### Patient Satisfaction

The overall patient with chronic illness satisfaction was 44.6% with a confidence interval (95% CI: 1.40–1.49). On the other hand, 55.4% of study participants had

dissatisfaction [Figure 3]. Regarding patient satisfaction by chronic disease category, 74 (40.4) of HIV/AIDS patients who had follow-up visits were satisfied with healthcare services. More than half of patients 98 (53.5) who had no formal education were satisfied with healthcare services. More than two-fifth of the study participants (44.8%) who came from urban were satisfied [Table 4].

## Factors Associated with Patient Satisfaction

Bivariable logistic regression was done for each independent variable, and the variables that had a statistically significant association with patient satisfaction at p-value <0.20 were entered into multiple logistic regressions. The presence of sign and direction indicators, obtaining some ordered drugs, getting alcohol for hand cleaning, obtaining

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**Table 2** Healthcare Service-Related Characteristics of Chronic Diseases Patients Who Had a Follow-Up Visit at Health Facilities in North Shoa Zone, Oromia Region, from May I to June 30, 2020 (n=410)

Variables	n	%		
Waiting time from registration to end of services in minutes				
Less 30	242	59%		
30–60	113	27.6%		
61–90	40	9.8%		
≥91	15	3.6%		
The distance of patient home from	The distance of patient home from a health facility in kilometers			
≤ 10	222	54.1%		
>10	188	45.9%		
Was the laboratory test ordered	I for you?			
Yes	285	69.5%		
No	125	30.5%		
Availability of ordered laborator	ies (n=285)			
All in all	156	54.7%		
Some	108	37.9%		
Not at all	21	7.4%		
Was the X-ray/ultrasound proce	dure ordered for you	?		
Yes	161	39.3%		
No	249	60.7%		
Availability of ordered X-ray/ultra	sound procedure in ho	ospital (n=161)		
All in all	65	40.4%		
Some	86	53.4%		
Not at all	10	6.2%		
Payment status				
Free	190	46.4%		
Paid	126	30.7%		
Health insurance	94	22.9%		
Availability of sign and direction	indicator in the health	n facility		
Yes	101	24.6%		
No	309	75.4%		
Searched water for drinking in the health facility				
Yes	261	63.7%		
No	149	36.3%		
Availability of drinking water in the hospital (n=261)				
Yes	211	80.8%		
No	50	19.2%		
Provider tell you how to maintain your health life				
Yes	289	70.5%		
No	121	29.5%		
	1	(Continued)		

(Continued)

Table 2 (Continued).

n	%		
Provider interview by the language you can understand			
347	84.6%		
63	15.4%		
facility to others?			
302	73.7%		
108	26.3%		
Whether or not drugs/supplies are ordered for you			
290	70.7%		
120	29.3%		
Availability of ordered drugs/supplies in hospital (n=290)			
154	53.1%		
94	32.4%		
42	14.5%		
Did you go to the toilet to use the latrine?			
344	83.9%		
66	16.1%		
	ge you can understand 347 63 facility to others? 302 108 ure ordered for you 290 120 plies in hospital (n=29) 154 94 42 the latrine?		

sanitizer for hand cleaning, and maintaining social distancing were variables significantly associated with patient satisfaction in multivariable logistic regressions at p-value <0.05 [Table 5].

The result from multiple logistic regression analyses showed that patients who obtained the sign and direction indicators in the health facility were 3.26 times more likely to be satisfied than their counterparts (AOR=3.26, 95% CI=1.1, 9.92). Patients who got some parts of ordered drugs from the health facility were 3.7 times more likely satisfied than those who did not get all ordered drugs (AOR=3.7, 95% CI=1.1, 12.54). Patients who got alcohol for hand cleaning at the health facilities entrance were 2.66 times more likely satisfied than those who did not get it (AOR=2.66, 95% CI=1.1,6.65). Patients who obtained sanitizer for hand cleaning at the health facilities entrance were 4.45 times more likely satisfied than their counterparts (AOR=4.45, 95% CI=1.72,11.52). Those patients who maintain social distancing in the health facility were 2.63 times more likely satisfied than their counterparts (AOR=2.63, 95% CI=1.21, 5.70) [Table 5].

#### **Discussion**

Overall, 44.6% of patients with chronic disease were satisfied with the service they received from health

**Table 3** COVID-19 Prevention and Control-Related Characteristics of Chronic Diseases Patients Who Had a Follow-Up Visit at Health Facilities in North Shoa Zone, Oromia Region, from May 1 to June 30, 2020 (n=410)

Variables	n	%	
Water available at the entrance of the hospital for hand washing			
Yes No	365 45	89% 11%	
Soap available at the entra	nce of the hospital fo	or hand washing	
Yes No	331 79	80.7% 19.3%	
Alcohol available at the en	trance of the hospita	I for cleaning of hands	
Yes No	124 286	30.2% 69.8%	
Sanitizer available at the er	ntrance of the hospita	l for cleaning of hands	
Yes No	308 102	75.1% 24.9%	
Keeping physical distance	practice in health faci	lity's	
Yes No	270 140	65.9% 34.1%	
Clinician wear the gloves	during health caregivi	ng	
Yes No	330 80	80.5% 19.5%	
Clinician wear the mask d	uring health caregivin	g	
Yes No	367 43	89.5% 10.5%	
Clinician rub their hands b	pefore or after health	caregiving	
Yes No	349 61	85.1% 14.9%	
Health professionals provide health education on COVID-19			
Yes No	295 115	72% 28%	
Health facility provide screening service for COVID-19			
Yes No	351 59	85.6% 14.4%	

facilities. This finding is similar to the study done in the Tigray region, Ethiopia (43.6%).<sup>30</sup> It is lower than the studies conducted at Jima university specialized hospital (77%),<sup>31</sup> Ilu Ababor primary health facilities (57.9%),<sup>32</sup> Nekemte referral hospital (58.16%),<sup>33</sup> Hawassa University teaching hospital (80.1%),<sup>34</sup> Bahirdar Felege Hiwot

referral hospital (58.3%),<sup>27</sup> Debraberhan referral hospital (57.7%),<sup>35</sup> Wolayita Sodo teaching hospital (54.2%),<sup>36</sup> Nigeria University Calabar teaching hospital (59.3%),<sup>37</sup> Nepal Chitwan medical teaching college (75.9%).<sup>38</sup> It is higher than the study conducted at Kilimanjaro hospital, Tanzania (20%).<sup>39</sup>

This is because the health system in developing countries like Ethiopia is not ready to deliver care to chronic illness patients such as hypertension, diabetes, and other chronic diseases. It is prepared to provide better care to acute infectious and parasitic diseases. Moreover, this variation might be due to the study setting and time difference, differences in socioeconomic status, the difference in patient management strategy across the health facilities, and the use of different cutoff points to determine patient satisfaction might be other reasons of satisfaction disagreement.

Patients who got some ordered drugs from the health facility were 3.7 times more likely satisfied than those who did not get any ordered drugs from the health facilities. It is in agreement with the studies done in Addis Abeba public hospitals, <sup>41</sup> Yekatit 12 medical college, <sup>42</sup> Jimma University specialized hospital, <sup>31</sup> Iluababor zone, <sup>32</sup> Wolayita-Sodo, <sup>36</sup> Dabraberhan, <sup>35</sup> and Bahardir, Ethiopia <sup>43</sup> where patients who did not get drugs were less satisfied than those who had ordered drugs.

The study found that unable to get ordered drugs is the main cause of patient dissatisfaction, making the poor people bypass the closest public health facilities to go to more costly private facilities or choose better quality public health facilities present at more distances.<sup>32</sup> Traveling the long distances to get quality healthcare to the far health facilities may expose the patient to COVID-19 due to contact with many people on-road or public transportation. This may be solved by applying telemedicine in low-and middle-income countries to save time and resources, and control and prevent COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>21,22</sup>

In this study, the presence or absence of a sign and direction indicators were significantly associated with patient satisfaction. It is consistent with the studies conducted in Addis Abeba, Yekatit 12 hospital,<sup>42</sup> where the availability of sign and diction indicator increases patient satisfaction by 98% and in Bahirdar, Ethiopia,<sup>43</sup> in which 74% of patients dissatisfied due to the absence of sign and direction indicators. The provision of sign and direction indicators in the healthcare facilities may provide a good image for customers to access easily the room they need for healthcare services.<sup>44</sup>

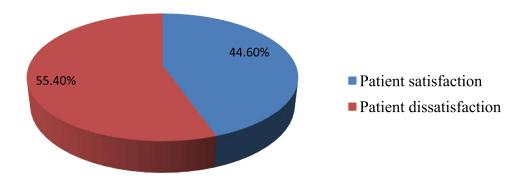


Figure 3 Prevalence of chronic patient's satisfaction who had follow-up visit at health facilities in North Shoa zone, Oromia region, from May 1 to June 30, 2020 (n=410).

Patients who obtained sanitizer and alcohol for hand cleaning at the health facilities entrance were significantly associated with patient satisfaction inquiry. This may be due to COVID-19 infection prevention, and the control strategy is cleaning hands with chemicals like

**Table 4** Chronic Disease Patient Satisfaction by Their Educational Status, Monthly Income, and Residence Who Had a Follow-Up Visit at Health Facilities in North Shoa Zone, Oromia Region, from May I to June 30, 2020 (n=410)

Variables	Satisfied, n (%)	Unsatisfied, n (%)	
Level of Patient satisfaction by types of chronic diseases			
HIV/AIDS	74 (40.4)	65 (28.6)	
Tuberculosis	40 (21.9)	32 (14.1)	
Hypertension	33 (18)	43 (19)	
Diabetes mellitus	19 (10.4)	41 (18.1)	
Heart failure	5 (2.7)	28 (12.3)	
Cancer	I (0.6)	6 (2.6)	
Others	11 (6)	12 (5.3)	
Level of Patient satisfaction by educational status			
Have no formal education	98 (53.5)	114 (50.2)	
Primary school	45 (24.6)	46 (20.3)	
Grade 9–12	17 (9.3)	29 (12.8)	
Diploma and above	23 (12.6)	38 (16.7)	
Level of Patient satisfaction by monthly income			
≤ 2000	126 (68.9)	142 (62.6)	
2001-5000	42 (22.9)	62 (27.3)	
5001-8000	14 (7.7)	15 (6.6)	
≥ 8001	I (0.5)	18 (3.5)	
Level of Patient satisfaction by Residence area			
Urban	82 (44.8)	120 (52.9)	
Rural	101 (55.2)	107 (47.1)	

alcohol and sanitizer. As patients become aware of this prevention strategy and unable to get at least one of them in the healthcare facilities may lead to dissatisfaction.<sup>3</sup> Hence, this condition may be challenged for patients with chronic disease from their follow-up visits and exacerbate chronic illness.

Patients who maintained and observed better social distancing at the registration place, waiting for the outpatient department, laboratory, and pharmacy services as a means of the COVID-19 prevention in the healthcare facilities were significantly associated with patient satisfaction. The reason behind this fact is that because WHO and CDC identified as maintaining physical distancing are one of the COVID-19 prevention and control strategies. 45,46 Therefore, patients who realized and maintained social distancing may increase patient satisfaction. In contrast, a lack of maintaining social distance (overcrowding) induces fear of being infected by COVID-19 at the health facilities may enhance dissatisfaction. 14 This indicates that social/physical distancing measures are one of the mechanisms to minimize the fear of exposure to the COVID-19 in public health facilities.

#### Conclusion

The level of satisfaction for patients with chronic diseases is very low in the study area. Availability of sign and direction indicators, availability of ordering drugs, social distancing status in the healthcare facility, availability of alcohol, and sanitizer for hand cleaning at the healthcare facility entrance to prevent and control COVID-19 were factors associated with the satisfaction of patients with chronic diseases. Healthcare facilities need to work on the COVID-19 prevention and control

**Table 5** Factors Associated with Patient Satisfaction Among Chronic Disease Patients Who Had a Follow-Up Visit at Health Facilities in North Shoa Zone, Oromia Region, from May 1 to June 30, 2020 (n=410)

Variables	Level of Satisfaction	n	COR	AOR
	Satisfied	Unsatisfied		
Availability of order	red laboratory procedures	<u> </u>		
All in one Some Not at all	92 (62.2%) 35 (25.2) 12 (8.6%)	62 (40.4%) 59 (50.3%) 30 (9.3%)	0.83 (0.29, 2.36) 3.54 (1.30, 9.61)**	1.12 (0.26,4.80) 2.83 (0.72,11.14)
Availability of order	red drugs	1	1	- 1
All in one Some Not at all	92 (73.6%) 27 (21.6%) 6 (4.8%)	65 (41.1%) 81 (39%) 15 (19.9%)	1.48 (0.67, 3.27) 3.71 (1.77, 7.80)**	1.48 (0.42,5.23) 3.7 (1.1, 12.54)**
Clinicians in intervi	ewing by client language			
Yes No	167 (91.3%) 16 (8.7%)	180 (979.3%) 47 (20.7%)	2.73 (1.49, 4.99)**	0.75 (0.24, 2.33)
Availability of sign a	and direction indicator of locat	ion		
Yes No	31 (16.9%) 152 (83.1%)	70 (30.8%) 157 (69.20%)	0.46 (0.28, 0.74)**	3.26 (1.1, 9.92)**
Availability of water	r for handwashing at the entra	nce		•
Yes No	175 (95.6%) 8 (4.4%)	190 (83.7%) 37 (16.3%)	4.26 (1.93, 9.40)***	3.59 (0.60, 21.44)
Availability of soap	for handwashing at the entran	ce	•	
Yes No	163 (89.1%) 20 (10.9%)	168 (74%) 59 (26%)	2.86 (1.65, 4.97)**	I.65 (0.49, 5.54)
Alcohol for hand cl	leaning at the entrance	•	•	
Yes No	75 (41%) 108 (59%)	49 (21.6%) 178 (78.4%)	5.52 (1.64, 3.89)***	2.66 (1.1,6.65)**
Sanitizer available a	t the entrance of health facility	,		•
Yes No	147 (80.30%) 36 (19.70%)	121 (53.3%) 106 (46.7%)	1.67 (1.10, 2.66)**	4.45 (1.72,11.52)**
Keeping social dista	ance in the health facility	•	•	
Yes No	149 (81.4%) 34 (18.6%)	121 (53.3%) 106 (46.7%)	3.84 (2.44, 6.05)***	2.63 (1.21,5.70)**
Clinicians wearing a	a face mask	<u>.</u>	<u>.</u>	<u>.</u>
Yes No	176 (96.20%) 7 (3.8%)	191 (84.1%) 36 (15.9%)	4.74 (2.06, 10.92)**	0.76 (0.12, 5.07)
Clinicians wearing g	gloves when giving healthcare			
Yes No	170 (92.9%) 13 (7.1%)	160 (70.5%) 67 (29.5%)	5.48 (2.91,10.30)**	0.81 (0.21, 3.05)

(Continued)

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Table 5 (Continued).

Variables	Level of Satisfaction		COR	AOR	
	Satisfied	Unsatisfied			
Clinician rub their hands	Clinician rub their hands with alcohol or sanitizer				
Yes	171 (93.4%)	178 (78.4%)	3.92 (2.02,7.63)**	1.58 (0.37, 6.77)	
No	12 (6.6%)	49 (21.6%)	1	1	
Availability of health edu	cation at the health facility		<u> </u>	·	
Yes	157 (85.8%)	138 (60.8%)	3.89 (2.38, 6.38)**	1.14 (0.51, 2.56)	
No	26 (14.2%)	89 (39.2%)	1	1	
Screening for COVID-19 at health facility					
Yes	168 (91.8%)	183 (80.6%)	2.69 (1.45, 5.02)**	1.3 (0.34, 5.05)	
No	15 (8.2%)	44 (19.4%)	1	1	

Notes: I=reference, and \*\*Statistically significant at p-value <0.05 in bivariable and multivariable logistic regression, Hosmer and Lemeshow test = 0.850.

strategy like maintaining social distance, availing drugs, alcohols, and sanitizers at the healthcare facilities entrance, conducting regular customer satisfaction assessment, and monitoring feedback regularly mandatory.

#### **Abbreviations**

AOR, Adjusted Odds Ratio; CI, Confidence Interval; COVID-19, Corona Virus Disease-2019; MPH, Master of Public Health; OPD, Outpatient department; OR, Odds ratio; SPSS, Statistical Package for Social Science; WHO, World Health Organization.

## **Data Sharing Statement**

The data for this study are cannot be made publically available at present.

It will be made available from the corresponding author on a reasonable request.

# **Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate**

This study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Salale University approved the ethical clearance of verbal informed consent and assent. A support letter was obtained from the North Shoa zone health office, and oral informed consent was obtained from the study participants whose age ≥18 years. The assent was obtained from parents/guardians for 15 to18 years old after clearing-up about the study's objective and purpose for each study participant. The privacy and confidentiality of study participants were also be maintained strictly. Data

collectors were informed about coding the questionnaire and not writing the study participants' names.

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#### **Author Contributions**

All authors made a significant contribution to the conception, study design, execution, and acquisition of data, analysis, and interpretation. All authors involved in drafting, revising, or critically reviewing the article; gave final approval of the version to be published; have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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#### **Disclosure**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests for this work.

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