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Exploring the role of pharmacy teams in Scottish GP practice: an interim analysis.

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Exploring the role of pharmacy teams in Scottish GP practice: an interim analysis



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INTRODUCTION

Scottish Government policy has highlighted the potential contribution of pharmacy teams, comprising pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, integrating within GP practices in Scotland.

PURPOSE

To explore the role of pharmacy teams in GP practices in Scotland.

RESULTS

Response rates for pharmacists were 83.4% (393/471) and pharmacy technicians, 89.4% (101/113). The majority of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians were aged between 30 and 49 years (n=248, 63.1%; n=68, 67.3% respectively) and had been qualified for 20 or more years (n=164, 41.7%, n=35, 34.7% respectively).

Pharmacists reported working in up to 29 GP Practices (Median=2) and pharmacy technicians across 1 to 54 (Median=5).

METHOD

An online questionnaire was developed, piloted and the link sent out by email from a nominated contact in each of the 14 Scottish Health Boards to all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working in GP Practices with two reminders at fortnightly intervals. Ethical approval had been gained.



PHARMACIST TASKS reported

- medication/polypharmacy reviews:
 - face-to-face (n=231, 58.8%)
 - notes only (n=159, 40.5%)
 - telephone/video (n=104, 26.5%)
- prescribing efficiency work (n=297, 75.6%)
- interpreting prescribing data (n=283, 72.0%)
- polypharmacy clinics (n=205, 52.2%)
- respiratory clinics (n=82, 20.9%)
- pain clinics (n=76, 19.3%) clinics

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TASKS reported

- medication/polypharmacy reviews:
 - face-to-face (n=7, 6.9%)
 - notes only (n=36, 35.6%)
 - telephone/video (n=2, 2.0%)
- prescribing efficiency work (n=80, 79.2%)
- prescribing management (n=80, 79.2%)
- medicine safety reviews/recalls (n=41, 40.6%)
- medicines reconciliation (n=31, 30.7%)

CONCLUSIONS

The findings illustrate the depth of the pharmacy workforce and diversity of roles of those employed in GP practices.

They further highlight the similar tasks of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians employed in GP practice. Two further phases of research have been completed (workforce modelling; 7 case studies). This study has now concluded with full results to be published Autumn 2018.

THANK YOU

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