

Attitudes of General Practice Clinical Pharmacists towards expanding scope of practice

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Introduction

We wondered how motivated and confident pharmacists were to develop new knowledge and skills to to expand their scope of practice. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society published guidance on this around the time the new Core Advanced Pharmacist Curriculum was launched. NES would reflect on how best to address any learning and development needs identified from this research which aimed to seek the views of pharmacists working in general practice in Scotland to identify barriers and enablers to expanding their scope of practice.

Method

In October 2022 all 391 pharmacists registered on NES GPCP Competency Framework with a NES electronic portfolio were emailed a 7 point Likert scale questionnaire and given 4 weeks to complete. Mann Whitney test was used to explore differences in response based on years qualified as an Independent Prescriber. The questionnaire was designed based on the Theoretical Domains Framework. TDF has been shown to be useful to understand factors that influence healthcare professionals' behaviour, in particular when it comes to change. Responses to the questionnaire informed interview questions and were aligned to TDF. 10 GPCPs from a range of Health Boards participated in one to one interviews over Microsoft Teams. This enabled for further understanding of barriers and enablers.

Results

There was a response rate of 18% (n=71) to the questionnaire. 69% had 5 years or less experience working in primary care and 72% had 5 years of less experience of working as an Independent Prescriber. Median responses to the questionnaire were largely positive indicating that there was enthusiasm and engagement amongst the population irrespective of

prescribing experience. Responses from qualitative interviews corroborated themes from the questionnaire.

Fig 1 Key themes mapped to TDF

Social/Professional Identity	Belief about capabilities		Belief about consequences
Opportunity to increase job satisfaction	Know how to develop the knowledge and skills		Pharmacists with extended roles a positive for team and
Perception and awareness of	Some factors not within GPCPs		patients
pharmacists role	own control?		
	Goals an	d Intentions	
Planning and working on goals even if no immediate opportunity to use			
Goa	ls of others and p	prioritisation can in	npact
Social Support/ Reinforcement		Environmental context and resources	
Being supported by pharmacy team and MDT was important		Working environment varied and some reported this as a barrier	
Meaningful feedback aids development		Good access to range of useful prescribing resources and courses supporting development.	
Keen to develop cross sector relationships further			
Conclusion			

The results of this research suggest that participants were self aware, able to reflect on their areas of clinical competence and working towards expanding their scope of practice. This was a natural professional development driven by self motivated learning and reaction to needs of patients and the service. Strong peer support and integration

Most helpful thing has been the support from the partnership in my practice...very open and helpful to training' **Pharmacist 8**

> 'if we are wanting to give that advanced pharmacy service we need to be seeing patients face to face' Pharmacist 1

'I feel good about expanding my knowledge and being able to help more patients...be more of an asset to the team." **Pharmacist 4**

Fig 2 Quotes from qualitative interviews

within the multidisciplinary team including appropriate working environment and regular discussion and supervision was key. Since responses were more positive than first anticipated, NES should ensure they develop supportive resources that give appropriate guidance and create opportunities for peer support to harness this enthusiasm and motivation.

- 1. Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2022). Core Advanced Pharmacist Curriculum <u>RPS Core Advanced curriculumFINAL.pdf (rpharms.com)</u>
- 2. Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2022). Professional Guidance Expanding Scope of Prescribing Practice. RPS Scope of Practice-English-220601.pdf (rpharms.com).
- 3. Atkins, L., Francis, J., Islam, R. et al. A guide to using the Theoretical Domains Framework of behaviour change to investigate implementation problems. Implementation Sci 12, 77 (2017).
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