

Developing Clinical Skills for Pharmacists-Facilitating Accelerated Learning

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Introduction

Changes in service delivery have driven a need for Pharmacists to develop new clinical skills.

NES Pharmacy and University of Dundee Medical School (UoD) designed “Developing Clinical Skills for Pharmacists”, a postgraduate programme offered to those undertaking Independent Prescribing.

The NHS Scotland Academy (NHSSA) have partnered with UoD in programme delivery allowing gaps in capacity, capability and skills to be addressed at an accelerated rate.

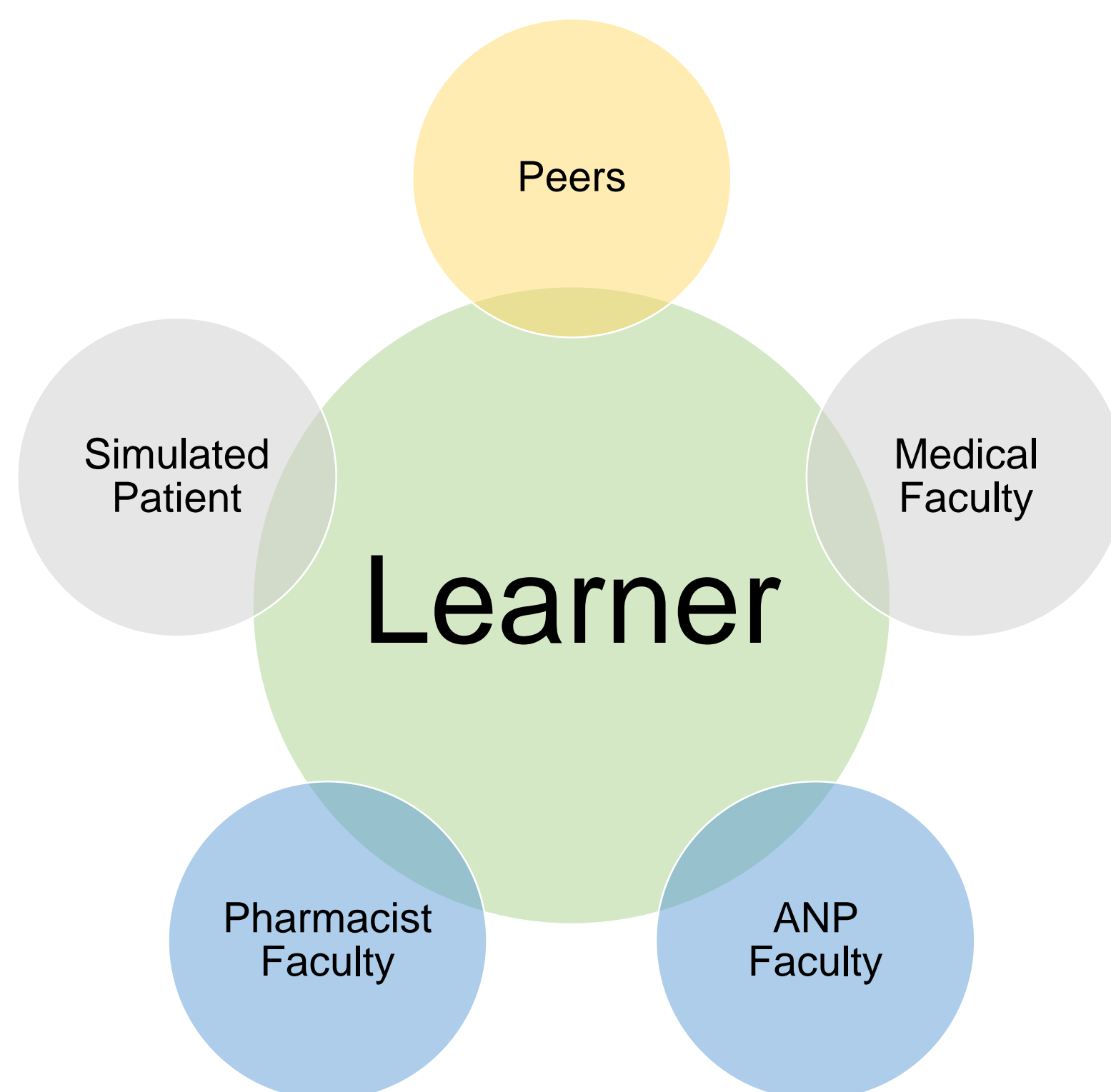
Aim

To share key themes of “Developing Clinical Skills for Pharmacists” and learner’s responses at point of delivery.

Methodology

The programme maximises academic and clinical expertise to support a “Once for Scotland” approach,

A multi-disciplinary faculty is utilised. Reflection is encouraged utilising multi-source feedback from faculty, peers and simulated patients.



Content is delivered over 4 sessions via a hybrid-model of taught and simulation-based learning using actors

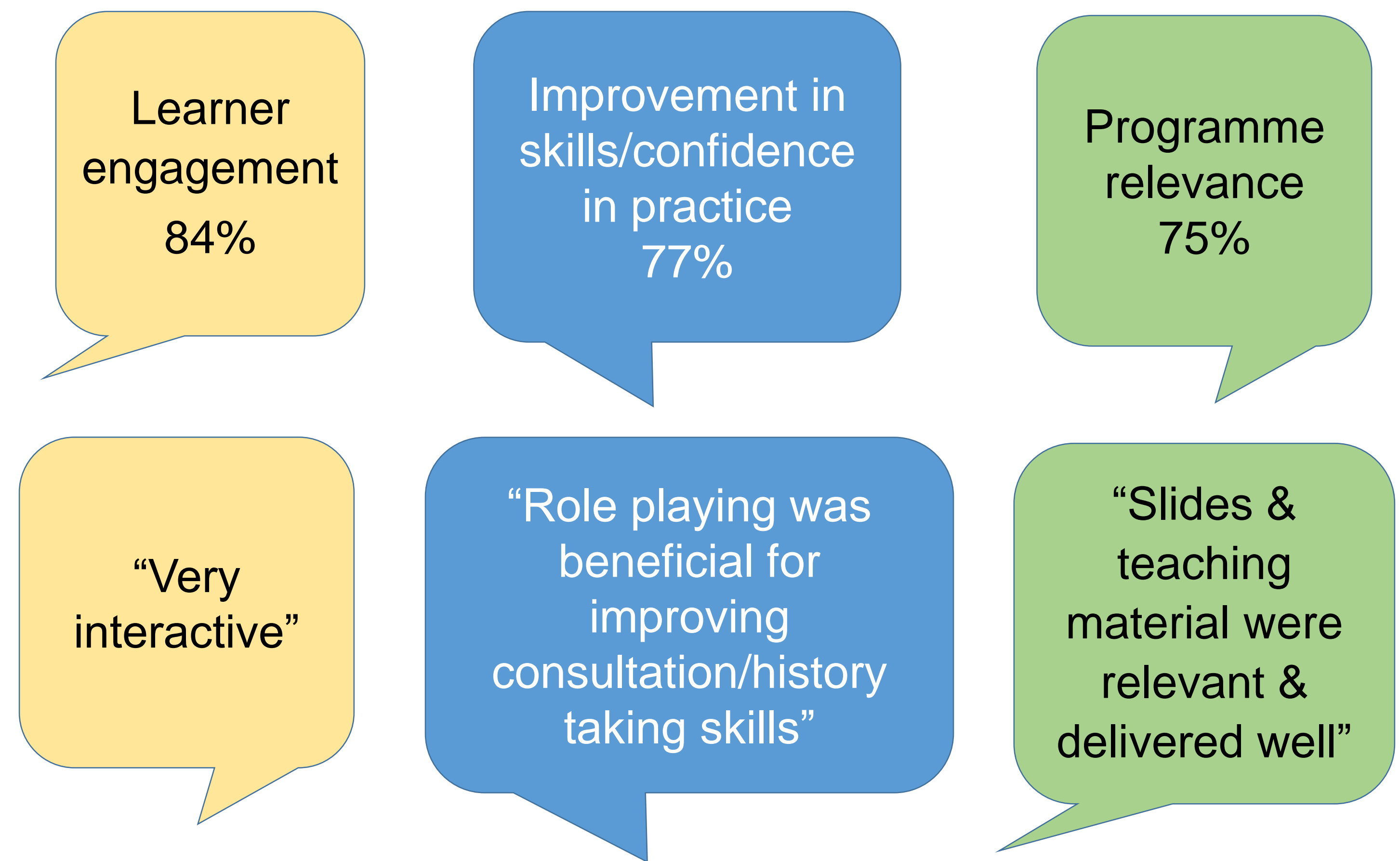
Key Module Components	
1. History taking and clinical communication: utilises actors for simulation	
2a. Vital signs, manual BP, and skin assessment: utilises peer practice	
2b. Eye, ear, mouth and respiratory assessment: utilises peer practice	
3. Application of skills: utilises actors for simulation	

Attendees to NHSAA Sept 2021-Jan 2024 were invited to complete an evaluation after each module. 13 statements were provided using Likert scale format. In addition, an overall satisfaction rating from 1-5 was requested.

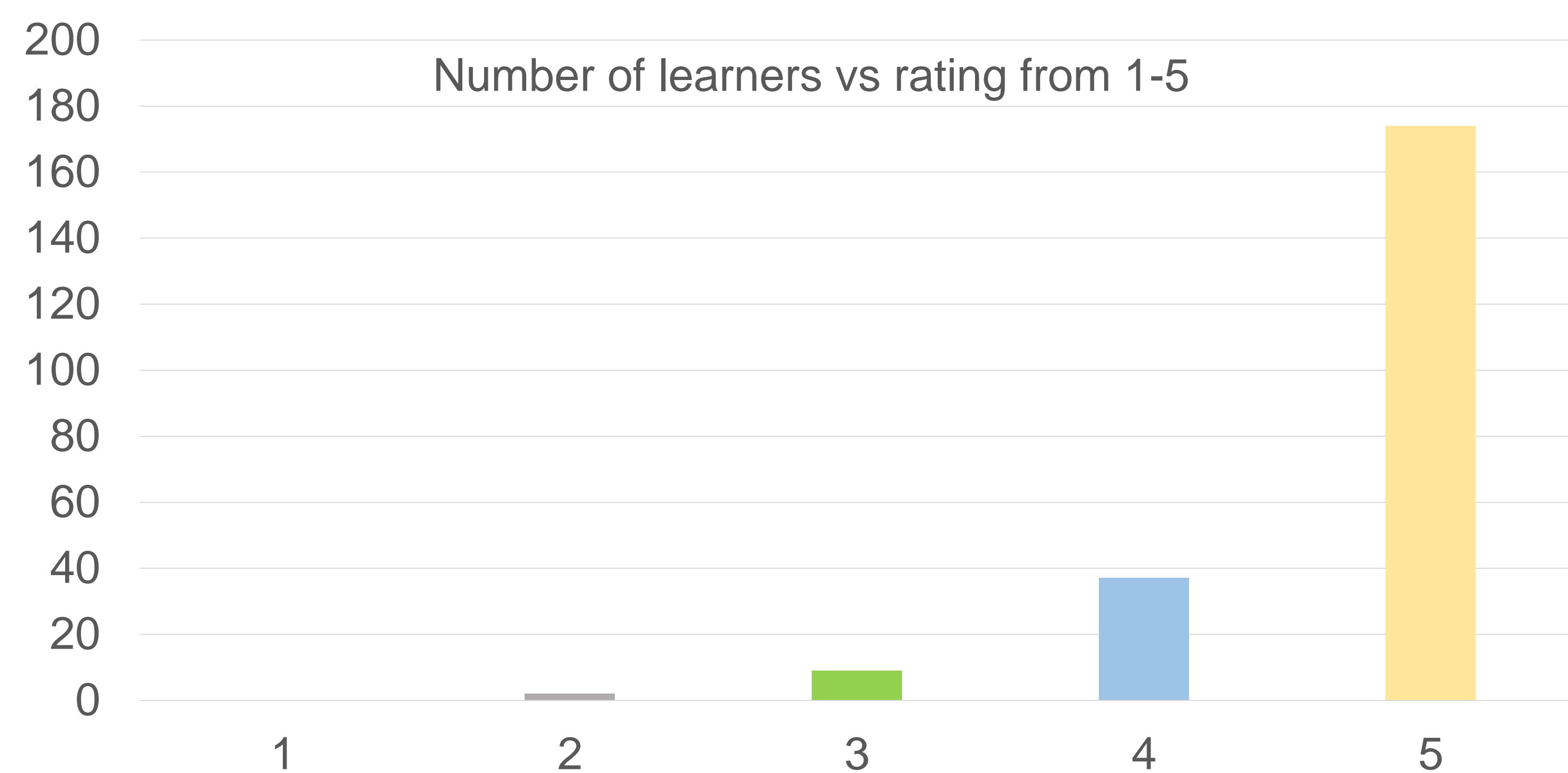
Results

858 learners attended NHSAA sessions (encompassing 11 NHS boards & 3 sectors). 223 responded to questionnaires (26% response rate)

201 (96% of 223) responded positively (agree/strongly agree with statements). Most favourably in relation to:



Scores relating to overall course satisfaction show 95% of respondents rate the programme as 4 or 5:



Conclusions

The programme has been successful in providing accelerated access to clinical skills. Learners have provided consistently positive feedback for this model. Of note, was its relevance to clinical practice- supporting an improvement in clinical skills and confidence in practice.

Further research is planned to quantify specific skills being used in practice and explore their impact on service delivery.

References

Hogg G, Ker J, Stewart F. Over the counter clinical skills for pharmacists. Clin. Teach 2011 Jun; 8(2)109-13

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