

Current Role of Primary Care Team-Based Pharmacists in Opioid Stewardship, Self-Perceived Confidence and Importance

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INTRODUCTION

- Ontario embraced a new team-based community health care concept in 2005 [1].
- Team-based primary care serves nearly 25% of Ontarians [2]. Pharmacists are frequently embedded in such settings.
- However, pharmacist role in chronic pain management and opioid stewardship in this practice setting is not well-documented.

OBJECTIVE

To understand the current role of primary care team-based pharmacists in chronic pain management and opioid stewardship, including type of task, frequency, and perceived confidence and importance.

METHODS

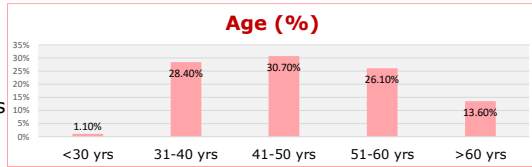
Design: Cross-sectional study using an online survey.

Target population: Pharmacists working in team-based primary care settings across Ontario (N≈200) [3].

Research instruments: The survey was developed using Delphi consensus followed by face and content validation. The survey was piloted with 6 pharmacist participants prior to data collection.

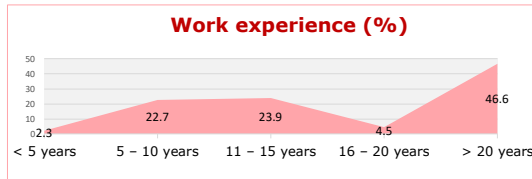
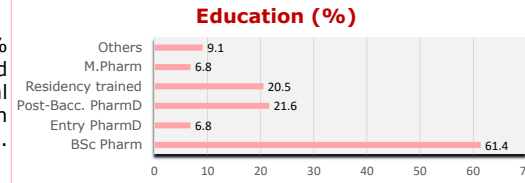
Data collection: Participants rated on 5-point Likert scales the frequency and perceived confidence and importance for performing opioid-related activities in their practice.

PARTICIPANTS' CHARACTERISTICS (N=88)



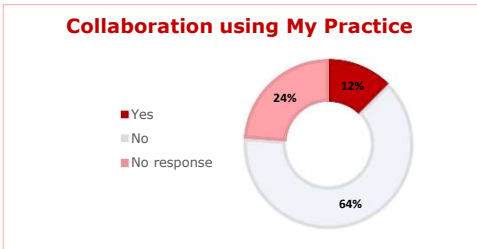
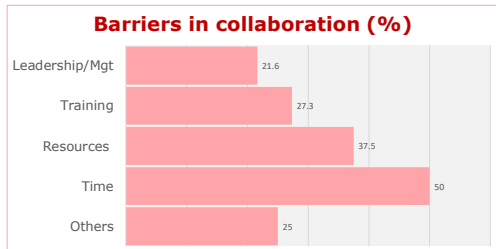
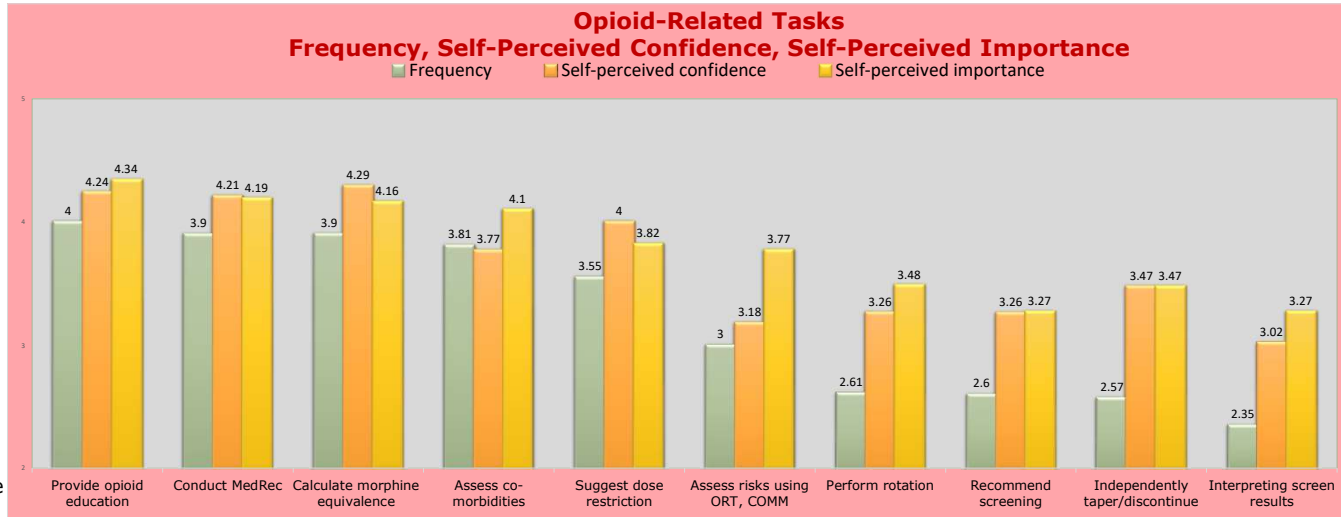
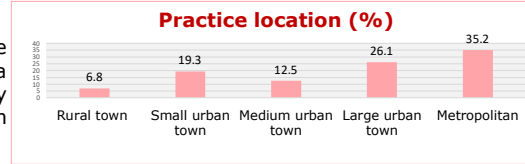
Female (61%)

68% completed additional training in last 5 years.



About 30% worked <25 hours weekly

55% were based in a Family Health Team



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- Team-based pharmacists engage in a wide range of clinical activities in chronic pain and opioid stewardship.
- Frequent tasks reflected higher confidence and greater self-perceived importance.
- Tasks such as performing opioid tapering were one of the least frequent and perceived as one of the least important. However, therapy adjustments including tapering programs have been shown to improve outcomes [4].
- Opportunities exist in optimizing pharmacist role in team-based primary care settings to support evidence-based practice and promote full scope practice.

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