

Clinical pharmacists' participation in ward rounds in Australian hospitals: What is the current practice?

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Introduction

Pharmacists' participation in ward rounds (WRs) can reduce adverse drug events and improve medication communication.

However, there is paucity of data on the current utilization of pharmacists as participants in WRs in Australian hospitals.

Aims

To explore the level of WR participation by clinical pharmacists in Australian hospitals and the enablers and barriers to their participation.

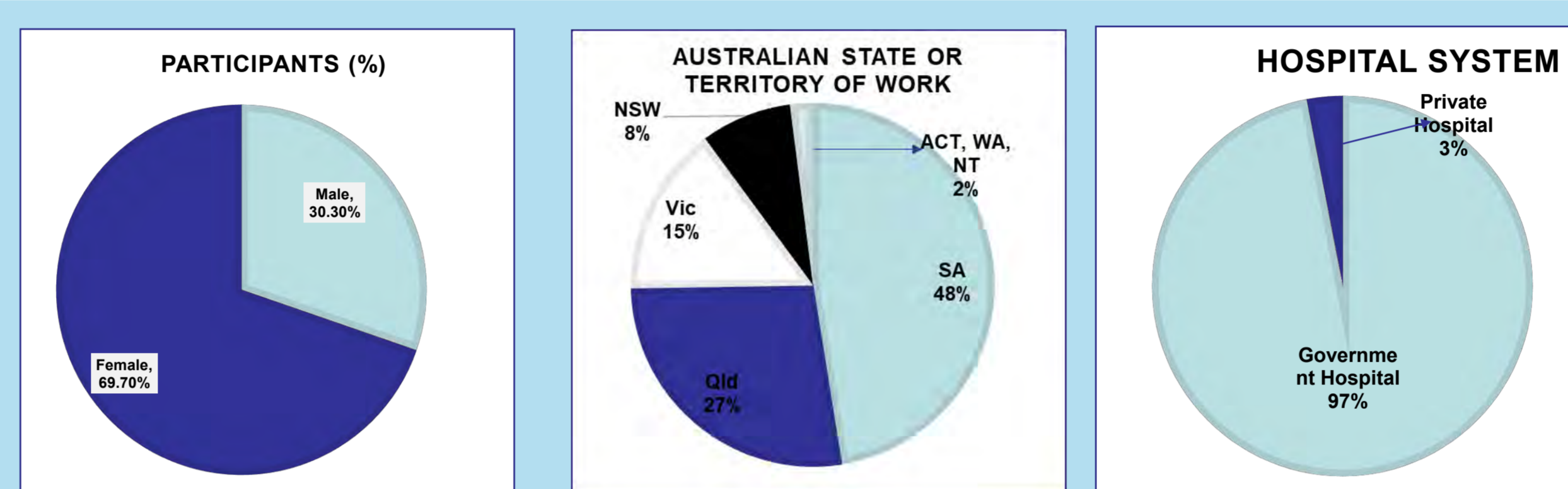
Method

The 'Theoretical Domains Framework' informed questionnaire for clinical pharmacists in Australia collected demographic information and current WR practices. Responses to key enablers and barriers to WR participation were collected using a Likert-scale. Cross tabulation analysis was conducted to determine the association between the Likert-scale statements and WR participation.

Results - Overview

- **99** responses were included in the analysis.
- **67** participants had WRs in their respective clinical units.

Results – Demographic information



Only 26/67 (39%) of the clinical pharmacists attended a ward round in the preceding fortnight of survey completion

Pharmacists who DO NOT participate in ward rounds feel..



There is a **lack of awareness of the role** of the pharmacist within the ward round compared with the pharmacists who do currently participate in ward rounds (63% versus 23%, $p=0.005$).



They **do not have enough time** to attend the ward round compared with the pharmacists who do currently participate in ward rounds (73% versus 31%, $p=0.002$).

Pharmacists who DO participate in ward rounds feel..

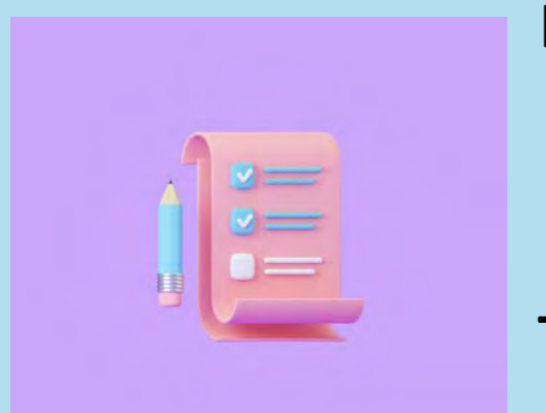


They have **support from pharmacy management** compared with pharmacist who do not currently participate ward round (69% versus 29%, $p = 0.004$).



They have **support from the broader inter-professional team** to participate the ward round compared with the pharmacists who do not participate ward round. (85% versus 37%, $p < 0.001$)

That there was an **expectation from their team leader or management** to participate the ward round compared with the pharmacists who do not participate ward round.



(54% versus 20%, $p=0.009$)

That **pharmacy colleagues also expected their participation** in ward rounds compared with the pharmacists who do not participate ward round (42% versus 17%, $p=0.011$).

Discussion

This study highlights the need for ongoing interventions such as re-structuring workflows and increasing the awareness of the role of the clinical pharmacists within a WR to enable continued interprofessional collaboration in practice.

For more information

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