An interprofessional ward round entrustable professional activity (EPA) provides opportunity for interprofessional supervision and learning across professions

Creating new Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs): Development and Evaluation of an Interprofessional Ward Round EPA

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Background

- Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) describe an observable and measurable unit of professional practice that an individual may be entrusted to perform with decreasing levels of supervision.
- In hospital pharmacy EPAs have been implemented to support development of students, interns, assistants, and early career pharmacists, and to provide a structure for feedback and increasing levels of independence in the learner.
- A review of the SA Pharmacy Intern framework identified a gap in inter-professional collaboration and communication development opportunities. A core activity which facilitates these skills is the inter-professional ward round, however no pharmacist EPA has been developed to support development of this skill.

Aim

To develop, pilot and evaluate an interprofessional ward round EPA for intern pharmacists under the supervision of medical practitioners.

Method

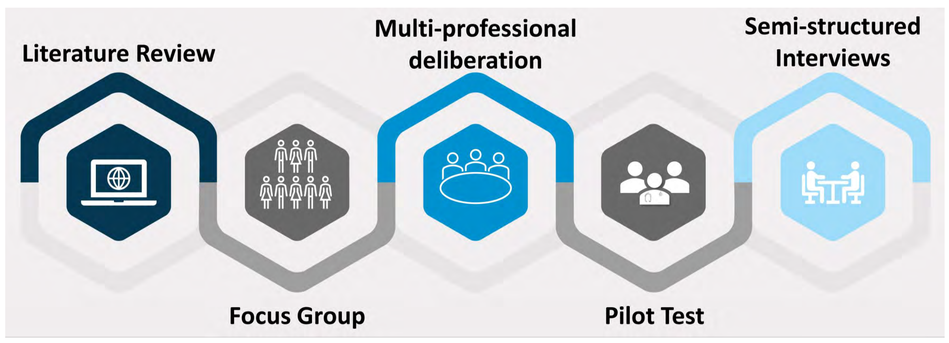


Figure 1 Qualitative methods utilised to develop and evaluate the EPA

1. A literature review was undertaken to identify studies that developed tools including EPAs for use in learning in the context of an interprofessional ward round.
2. Focus group questions were developed based on the literature review and national competency standards to identify activities, tasks and behaviours undertaken by a pharmacist as part of an interprofessional ward round.
3. A multi-professional focus group was convened, audio recorded and transcribed verbatim and analysed using conceptual content analysis. Coding was undertaken by all members of the research team, with flexibility to add categories through the coding process looking for the existence of concepts rather than frequency.
4. The multi-profession research team debated themes and language combining similar concepts and ensuring clarity and to refine a list of activities that make up an interprofessional ward round EPA for pharmacists with themes mapped against the National Competency Standards.

Method (continued)

5. Activities were embedded in an EPA tool - members of the focus group were asked to identify relevant items and gaps to assess content and face validity.
6. The refined tool was piloted with 15 intern pharmacists and 10 consultant physicians over 2 years who were invited to participate in semi-structured interviews to assess usability and value of the EPA tool.
7. All interviews were recorded, transcribed and analysed using an inductive coding approach in Nvivo.

Participated in semi-structured interviews
5/10 Medical Consultants
8/15 Intern Pharmacists
Across 3 metropolitan hospitals

39 tasks were identified and mapped against 5 competency domains for pharmacists

Results (continued)

Themes centred on the tool's utility:

- Participants found it to be well–structured and relevant to the inter-professional ward round.
- It supported self-reflection and facilitation of feedback between professions
- The detail was both a helpful scaffold for pharmacists learning a new skill and simultaneously, a barrier to efficient tool use, if participants lacked familiarity.

Key benefits from participation in the activity:

- Optimisation of patient care through improvements in efficiency and interprofessional decision-making
- Attitudes and behaviours, by providing a platform for interns to attend ward rounds and facilitate feedback from a senior medical professional and promoting the role and value of pharmacy input in this context.

Results

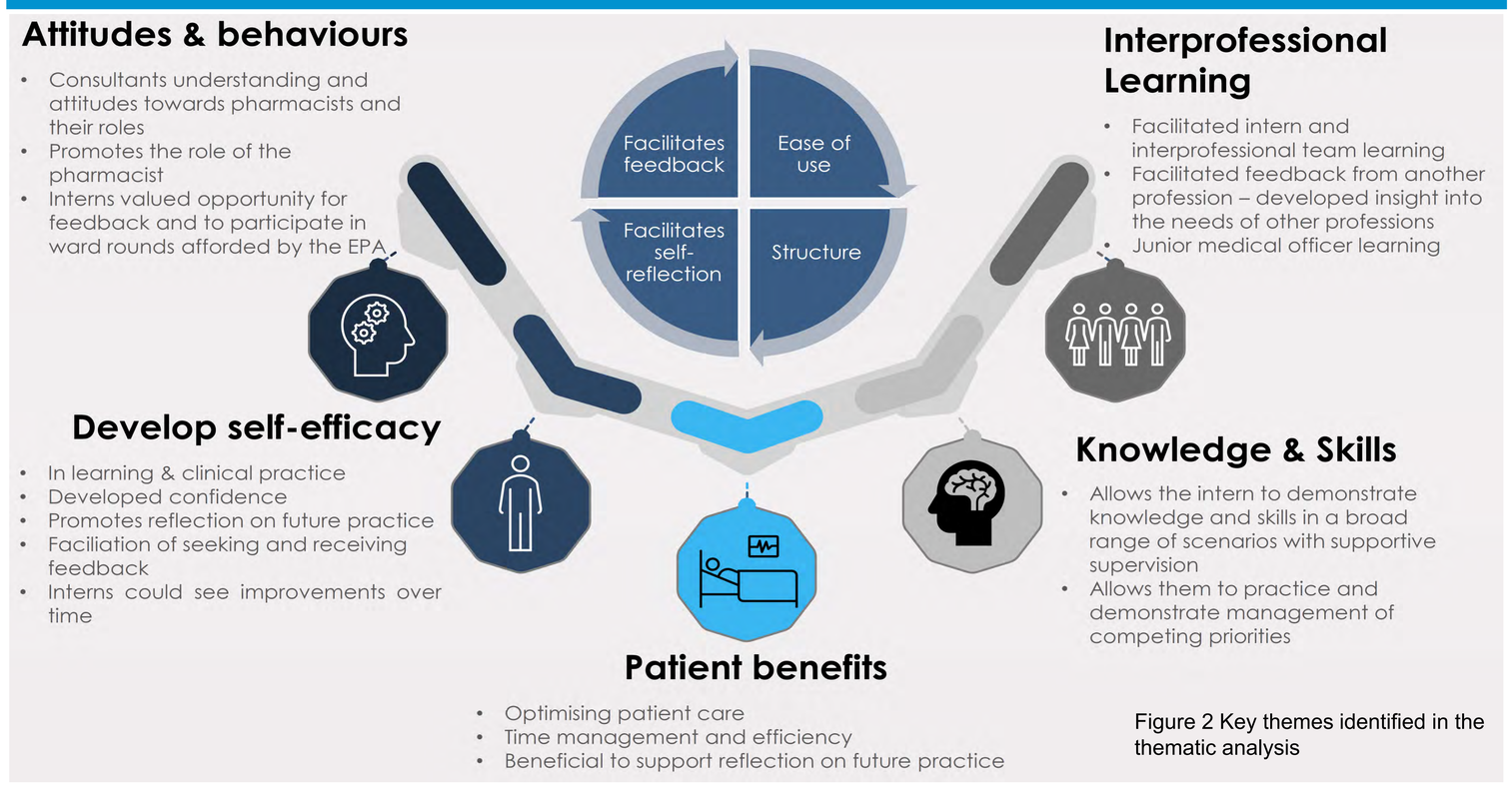
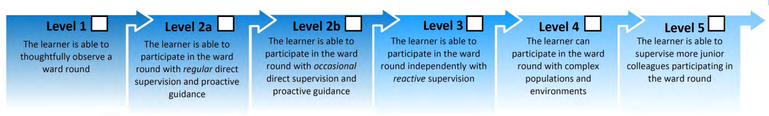


Figure 2 Key themes identified in the thematic analysis

Results



- An entrustment scale was adapted from the literature for use with an interprofressional ward round (Figure 3 above).

Conculsions

- This study demonstrates an evidence-based approach to EPA development results in a useful training tool which can be used to provide a structured interprofessional learning opportunity.
- Training for those using the EPA is essential to enable efficient and effective use in practice.

For more information

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