

Evaluating the impact of pharmacists in the older persons' community mental health setting

AUTHORS

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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PHARMACISTS ARE A SPECIALISED RESOURCE WITHIN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TEAMS, SERVING AS INTEGRAL MEMBERS OF INTERDISCIPLINARY AND COLLABORATIVE CARE MODELS.

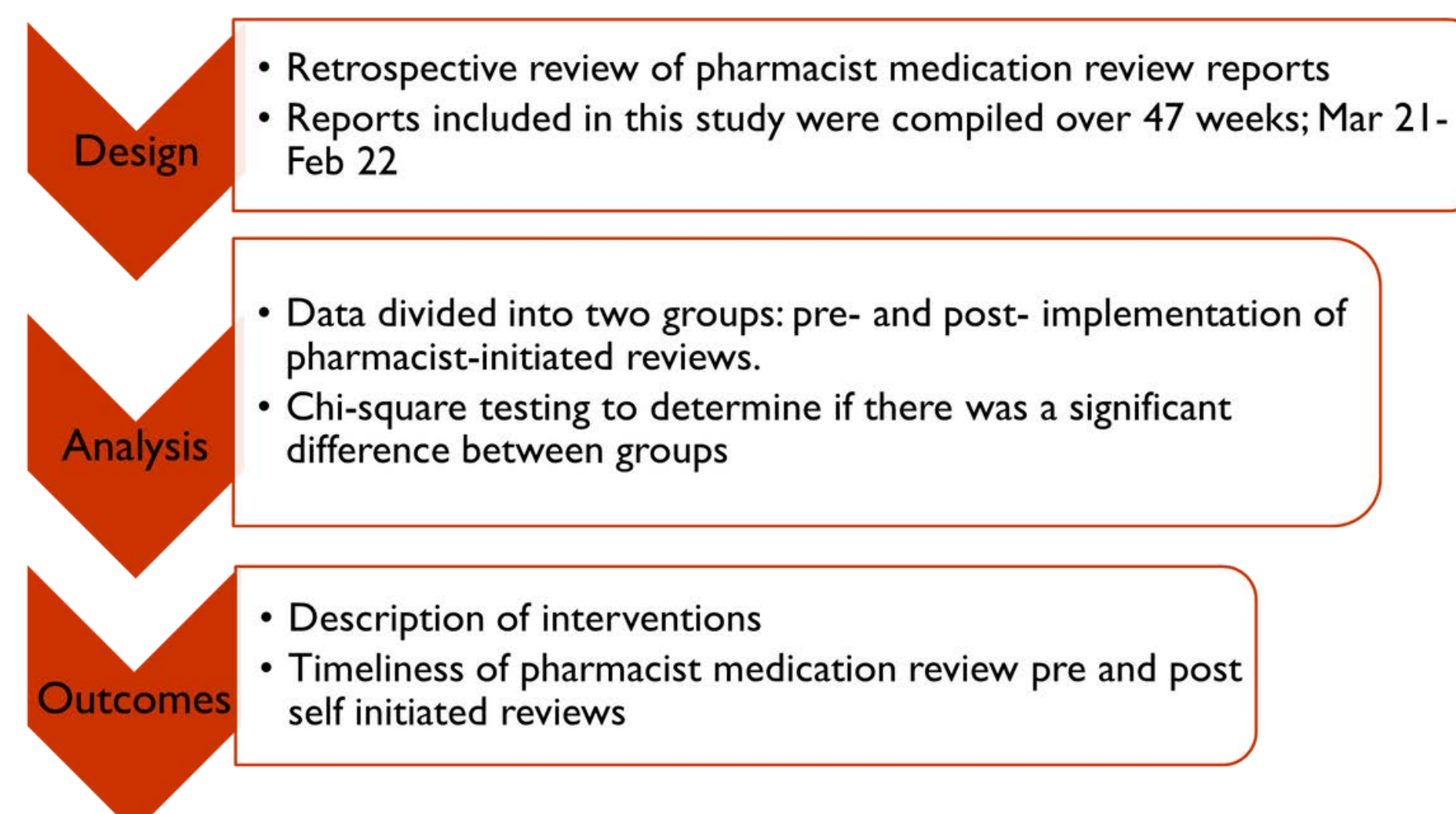
INTRODUCTION

- In 2019, a Clinical Pharmacist was added to the Northern Adelaide Older Persons Community Mental Health Team (CMHT).
- Clinical pharmacy services were provided on a referral basis only until 2021 when pharmacist initiated medication reviews for new consumers, were introduced.
- This study evaluated the impact of this extension of clinical pharmacy services.

OBJECTIVES

- Identify pharmacist-led interventions in community mental health
- Determine if pharmacist-initiated medication reviews are associated with early interventions.

METHOD



DISCUSSION

- Pharmacists improve the safe and efficacious use of psychotropic drugs in CMHTs through a broad range of services.
- Embedding self-initiated reviews by pharmacists in the service delivery and workflow of CMHTs reduces time to interventions compared to a referral based service alone.

CONCLUSION

- This study features the role of clinical pharmacists as medication consultants in community mental health.
- Clinical pharmacy services should be implemented in other community mental health teams to afford this benefit to a wider patient population.

RESULTS

- A total of 224 pharmacist-led interventions were identified across 69 reports.
- Most common pharmacist interventions were medication history taking and reconciliation, advice on psychotropic drug choice, and patient education.
- The median time from start of consumer episode of care (EOC) to pharmacy review reduced from 41 to 8 business days post-implementation of pharmacist-initiated reviews, $p < 0.001$.

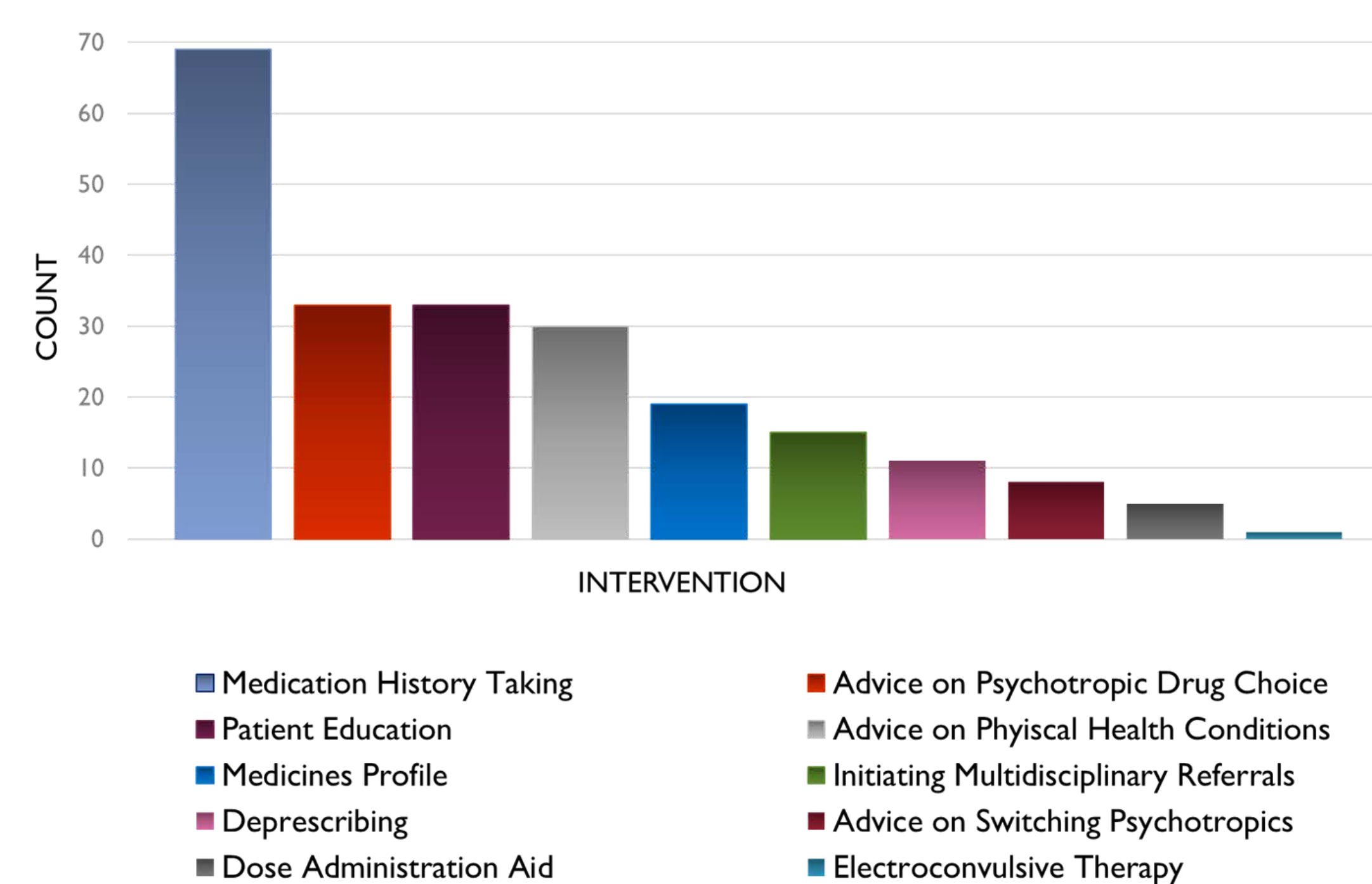


FIGURE 1: PHARMACIST-LED INTERVENTIONS