

# Nursing and medical views towards collaborative pharmacist prescribing



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## Introduction

An additional pharmacist was embedded into a medical and surgical unit at The Royal Melbourne Hospital to write discharge prescriptions. Pharmacists on these teams attended consultant ward rounds and pended discharge prescriptions in the electronic medical record (EMR) for doctors to review before printing and signing.

## Aim

To understand medical and nursing perspectives towards pharmacists collaboratively preparing discharge prescriptions three months after implementation of this service.

## Methods

### Study design:

Cross sectional survey of medical and nursing staff in the Medical Unit 1 and Emergency General Surgery unit.

### Questionnaire design:

Study data were collected and managed using REDCap electronic data capture tools hosted by the Royal Melbourne Hospital Intelligence Unit. The questionnaire comprised 18 multiple choice and 2 open-ended questions.

## Results

Overall, 20 questionnaires were completed (18 doctors and 2 nurses), yielding a 67% response rate.

All respondents stated they would like the service to continue and 18 respondents (90%) stated they would like this service extended to other units.

All respondents stated that pharmacists are appropriately trained to complete this task. Additionally, 11 (55%) respondents stated the collaborative prescribing model would not de-skill doctors.



Fig 1: A QR code to the complete questionnaire responses

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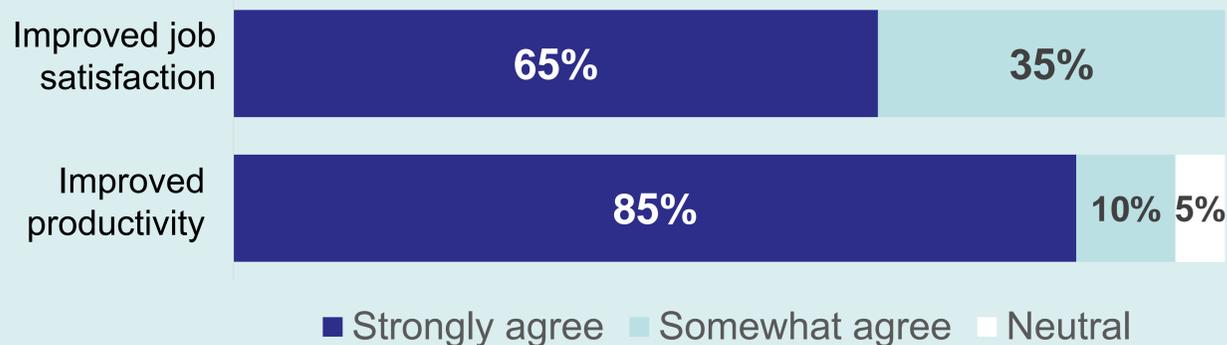
## Discussion

- Doctors and nurses demonstrated high levels of support towards collaborative pharmacist prescribing by pending discharge prescriptions in the EMR.
- The authors hypothesised deskilling concerns would arise; however, most doctors refuted this and identified that pharmacists and doctors can learn from one another in collaborative prescribing models.
- Qualitative responses highlighted the heavy workload on junior doctors. Collaborative prescribing was perceived to significantly ease these pressures.
- Pharmacist/doctor consultations at the time of prescription writing may reduce the need to clarify medication plans and requests for amended prescriptions.

## Results

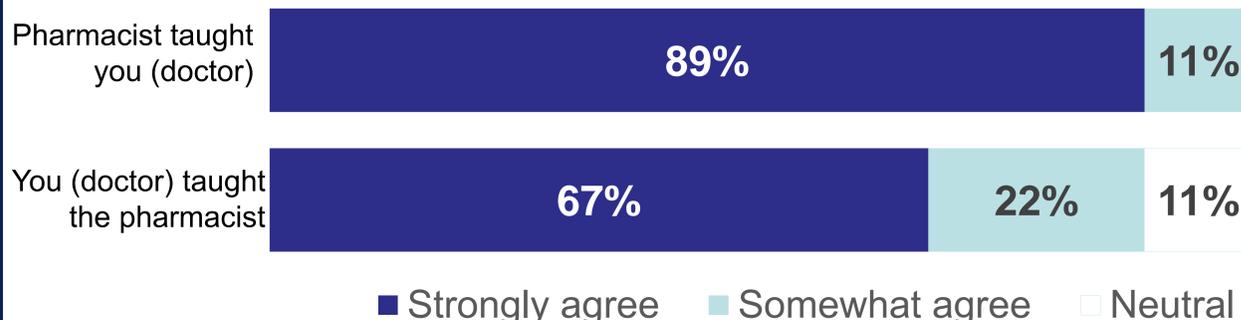
### Job satisfaction

Fig 2: Doctors and nurses views towards the impact of collaborative pharmacist prescribing on their job satisfaction and productivity



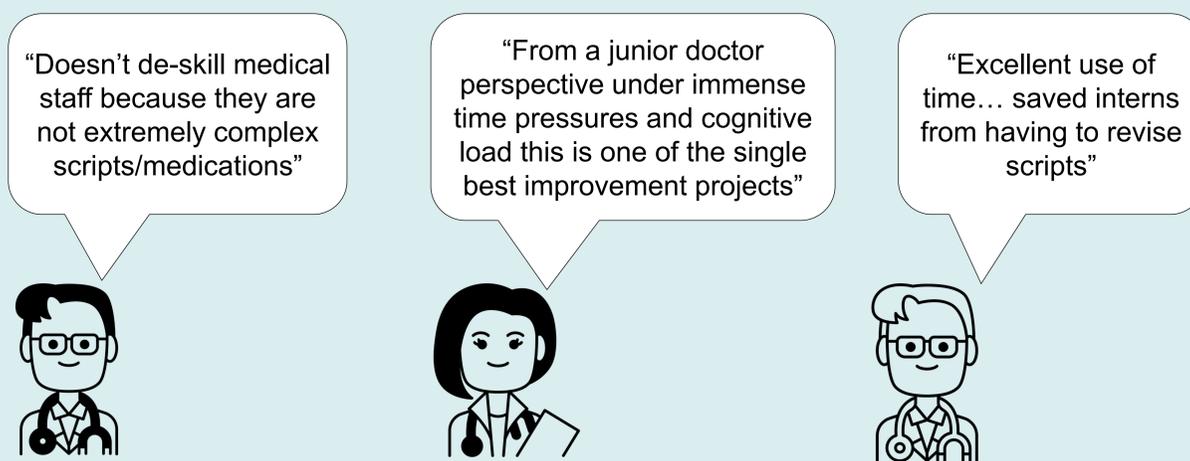
### Cross discipline teaching

Fig 3: Doctors views towards the transfer of prescribing skills between doctors and pharmacists



### Qualitative responses

Fig 4: Qualitative responses from doctors and nurses towards collaborative pharmacist prescribing



Collaborative pharmacist prescribing **improved productivity** and **job satisfaction** of **doctors and nurses** and provided opportunities for **cross disciplinary teaching**.

## Contact



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## Impact on patient safety & patient flow



Figure 5: A QR code to the quantitative analysis of collaborative pharmacist prescribing in general surgery patients

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