

Concerns over pharmacist experience & skills reduce uptake of community pharmacy COVID-19 vaccination programs

Public perception towards administration of COVID-19 vaccinations by community pharmacists

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Introduction

- Hospital-run mass vaccination clinics delivered majority of COVID-19 immunisations during the pandemic.
- Data was obtained for utilization in workforce planning for future pandemics within public health services.

Aims

To investigate factors that would enable and influence choice for or against community pharmacists providing COVID-19 vaccinations.

Method

- A survey questionnaire study based at Elizabeth Playford mass vaccination clinic between February 2022 and April 2022.
- All visitors aged 18 years and above were invited to complete a survey on perceptions on receiving vaccination at a community pharmacy within the mandatory 15-minute waiting time post vaccination.

Results

A total of 1282 respondents completed voluntary questionnaires. **73% of respondents (n = 937)** would be comfortable receiving future COVID-19 vaccinations at a community pharmacy.

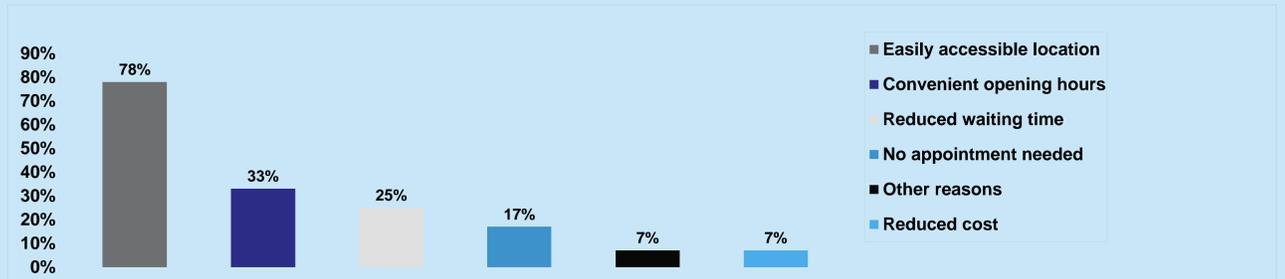


Figure 1 Enablers for receiving vaccination at a community pharmacy #

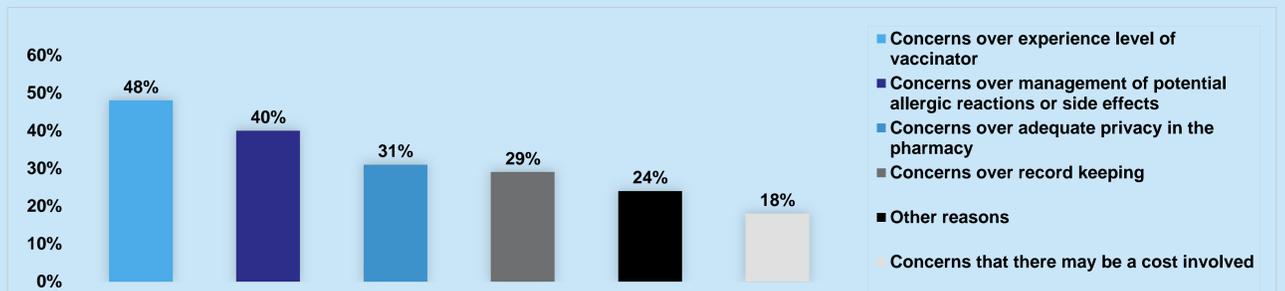


Figure 2 Barriers to receiving COVID-19 vaccination at a community pharmacy ##

Results based on n = 302 who have previously received vaccination(s) at a community pharmacy

Results based on n = 345 who do not feel comfortable receiving future COVID-19 vaccination at a community pharmacy

Discussion & Conclusion

- Community pharmacy's involvement supports favourable vaccination rates due to high accessibility whilst reducing pressure on public hospital staffing.
- More than 25% of respondents did not feel comfortable receiving a future COVID-19 vaccine from a community pharmacist.
- Issues identified as barriers to receiving a COVID-19 vaccination in the community setting may need further exploration to help improve future uptake and planning.

For more information

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