

Pharmacist Attendance on General Medicine Ward Rounds: A Survey of Medical Officer and Pharmacist Perspectives

Emily Cooper¹, Brodie Hose¹, Camille Boland², Stephanie McKellar¹, Mark Campbell¹, Ed Anderson¹
1. Pharmacy Department, Royal Hobart Hospital 2. Statewide Hospital Pharmacy Tasmania

Background

Pharmacists on interdisciplinary Ward Rounds (WR) have shown to reduce significant and potentially lethal adverse effects, improve medication appropriateness, increase communication within the team and increase the number of in-depth high-risk medication related discussions¹⁻⁴. Locally, pharmacist attendance on WRs has been identified as an area of development⁵.

Aim

The primary focus of the small scoping survey was to investigate pharmacist attendance on general medicine WRs. The survey was designed to determine pharmacist and medical officer perspectives on what activities a pharmacist should perform on a WR, and attitudes and barriers to WR attendance.

Method

An online, anonymous, voluntary survey, utilising Survey Monkey, was circulated to medical officers and pharmacists at a tertiary referral hospital in Tasmania.

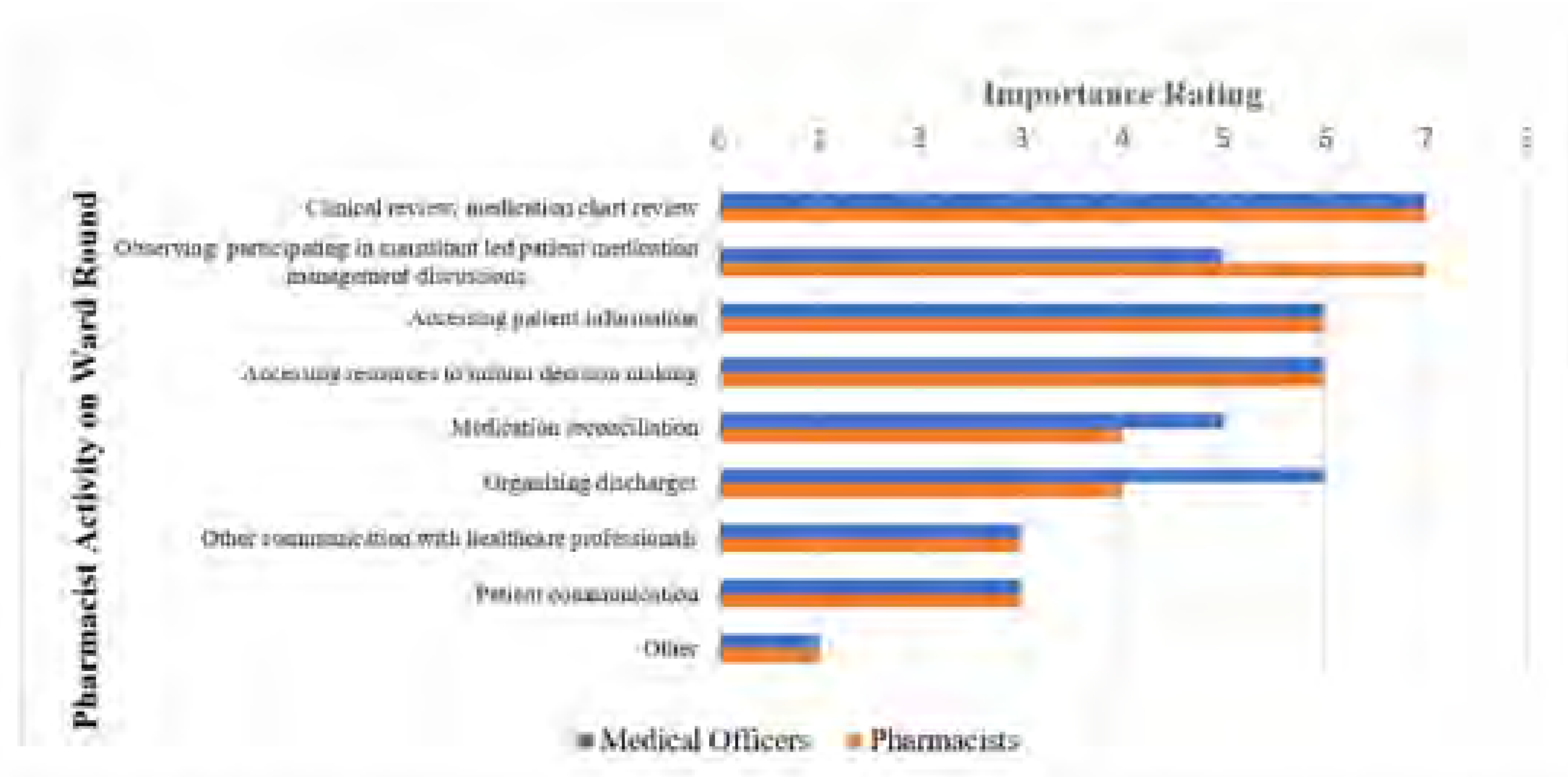


Figure 1: Perceived importance of pharmacist activities on General Medicine ward rounds as rated by medical officer and pharmacist respondents.

Reference

- O'Leary KJ, Buck R, Fligel HM, et al. Structured Interdisciplinary Rounds in a Medical Teaching Unit. *Arch Intern Med*. 2011;171(7):678-684.
- Bullock B, Donovan P, Mitchell C, Whitty JA, Coombes I. The impact of a pharmacist on post-take ward round prescribing and medication appropriateness. *Int J Clin Pharm*. 2019;41:65-73.
- Patel N, Foley P, Juma SE. Pharmacist contributions to consultant-led post-take ward rounds: a service evaluation. *Pharm J*. Published online October 20, 2020. doi:10.1111/pt.2020.20208358
- Kaboli PJ, Hoth AB, McClimon BJ, Schnipper JL. Clinical pharmacists and inpatient medical care: a systematic review. *Arch Intern Med*. 2006;166(9):955-64.
- Babu D, Rowett D, Lim R, Marotti S, Wisdom A, Ellett L. Clinical pharmacists' participation in ward rounds in hospitals: responses from a national survey. *Int J Pharm Pract*. 2023;31(4):409-416. doi: 10.1093/ijpp/riad028

Results

27 pharmacists and 13 medical officers (including 6 consultants) completed the survey. 32% of all survey respondents reported 'usually' or 'always' having a pharmacist in attendance on post-take WRs. 77% of medical officers reported pharmacists 'usually' or 'always' contributed when present on WRs, compared to 60% of pharmacists. Medication chart review/clinical review was identified as the most important task by both groups. Some barriers identified included staff shortages, pharmacist rostering, and an unclear understanding of the role of a pharmacist. Less than 50% of all respondents reported that they had been informed of the expectations of a pharmacist's role on a WR.

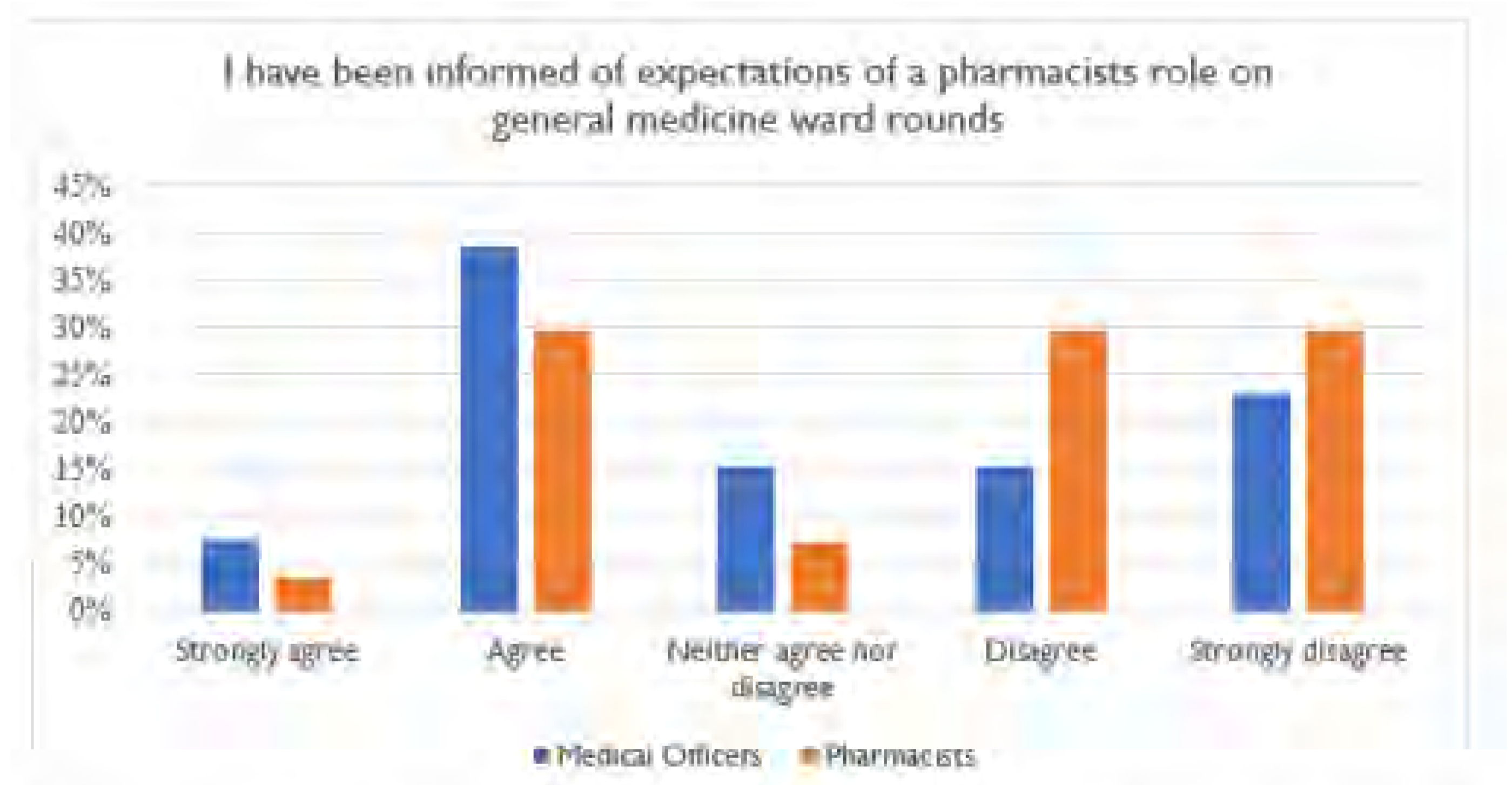


Figure 2: Medical officer and pharmacist perceptions on how informed they were of the expectations of a pharmacist role on general medicine ward rounds.

Conclusion

Pharmacists and medical officers' expectations of a pharmacist's activities on WRs are similar. Medical officers' perceptions regarding the frequency pharmacists' contributions was higher than pharmacist's self-reported rate. These results will inform the development of an agreed WR pharmacist role and a targeted training package alongside an improved WR model of care to optimise pharmacist attendance and participation on WRs.