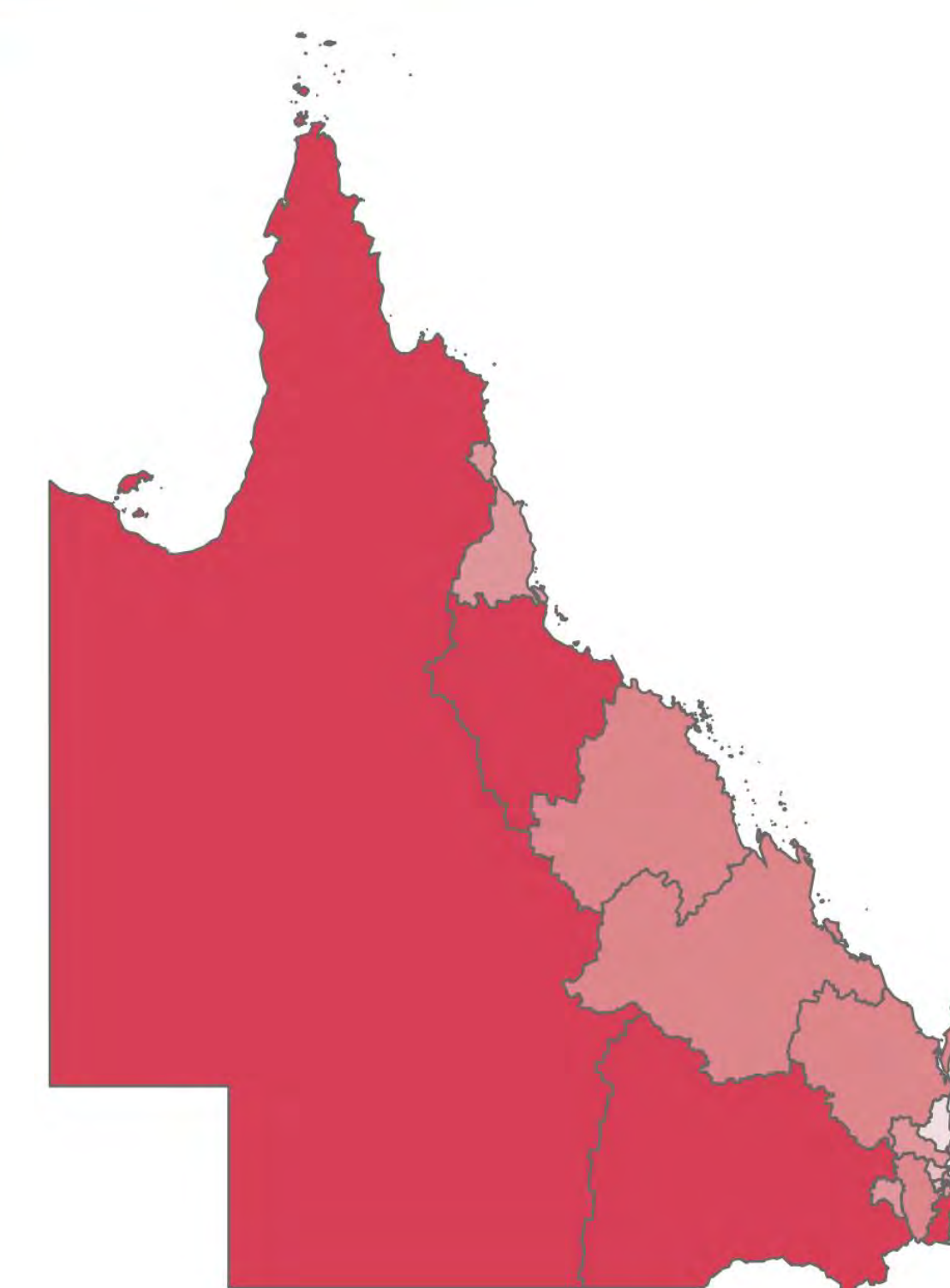


Don't Forget the Follow-up: Learnings from a cardiac outreach clinic

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Objectives

Evaluate the impact of pharmacist medication recommendations on cardiologist treatment decisions.

Evaluate the impact of pharmacist follow-up on primary care medication implementation.

Background

Rates of death from cardiovascular disease are significantly higher for patients living in remote areas compared to major cities.²

Patients in remote communities generally receive medication via S100 supply arrangements rather than standard prescription via community pharmacy.³

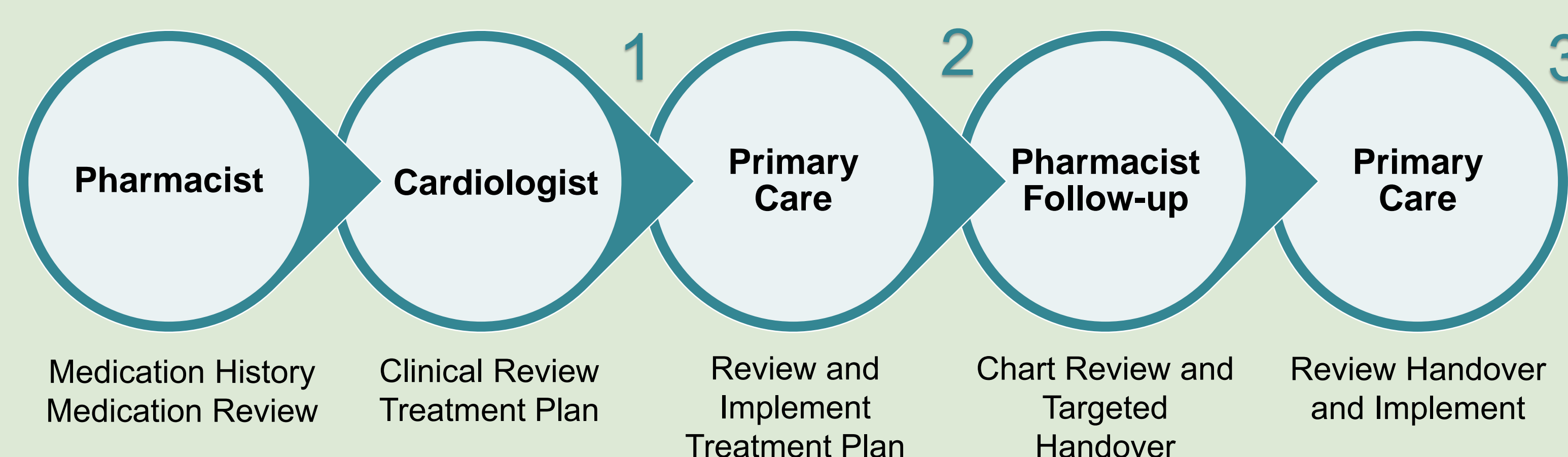
Poor communication is a known risk to patient safety at transitions of care.⁴

A multidisciplinary outreach cardiology service including a pharmacist was established to service remote areas, provide care closer to home and improve patient outcomes.

Method

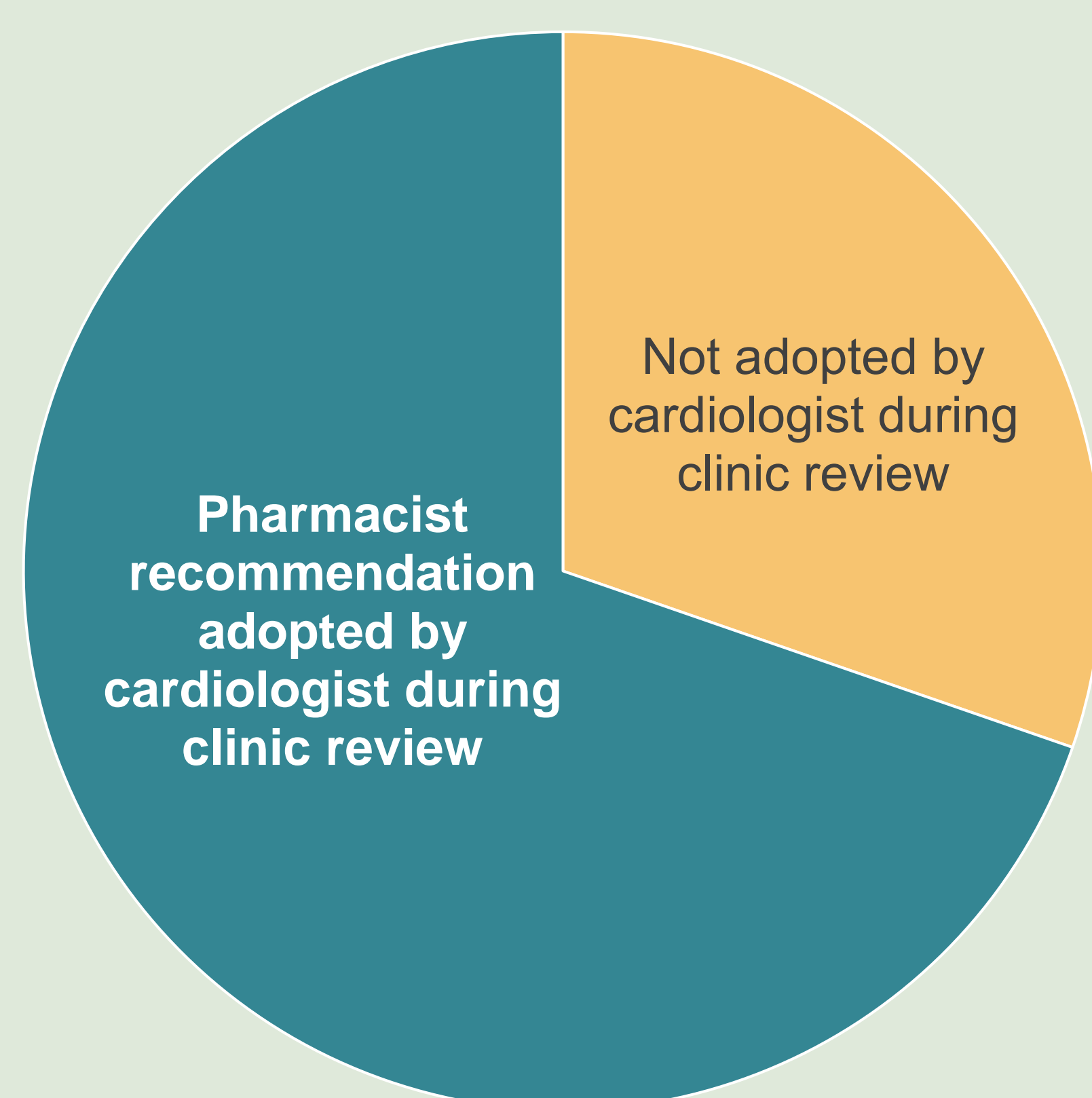
Retrospective chart audit of 100 cardiac outreach patients:

1. Impact of pharmacist recommendations on cardiologist treatment decisions
2. Implementation by primary care of cardiologist medication treatment plan
3. Implementation by primary care after pharmacist follow-up



Results

Impact of Pharmacist Recommendations on Cardiologist Treatment Decisions



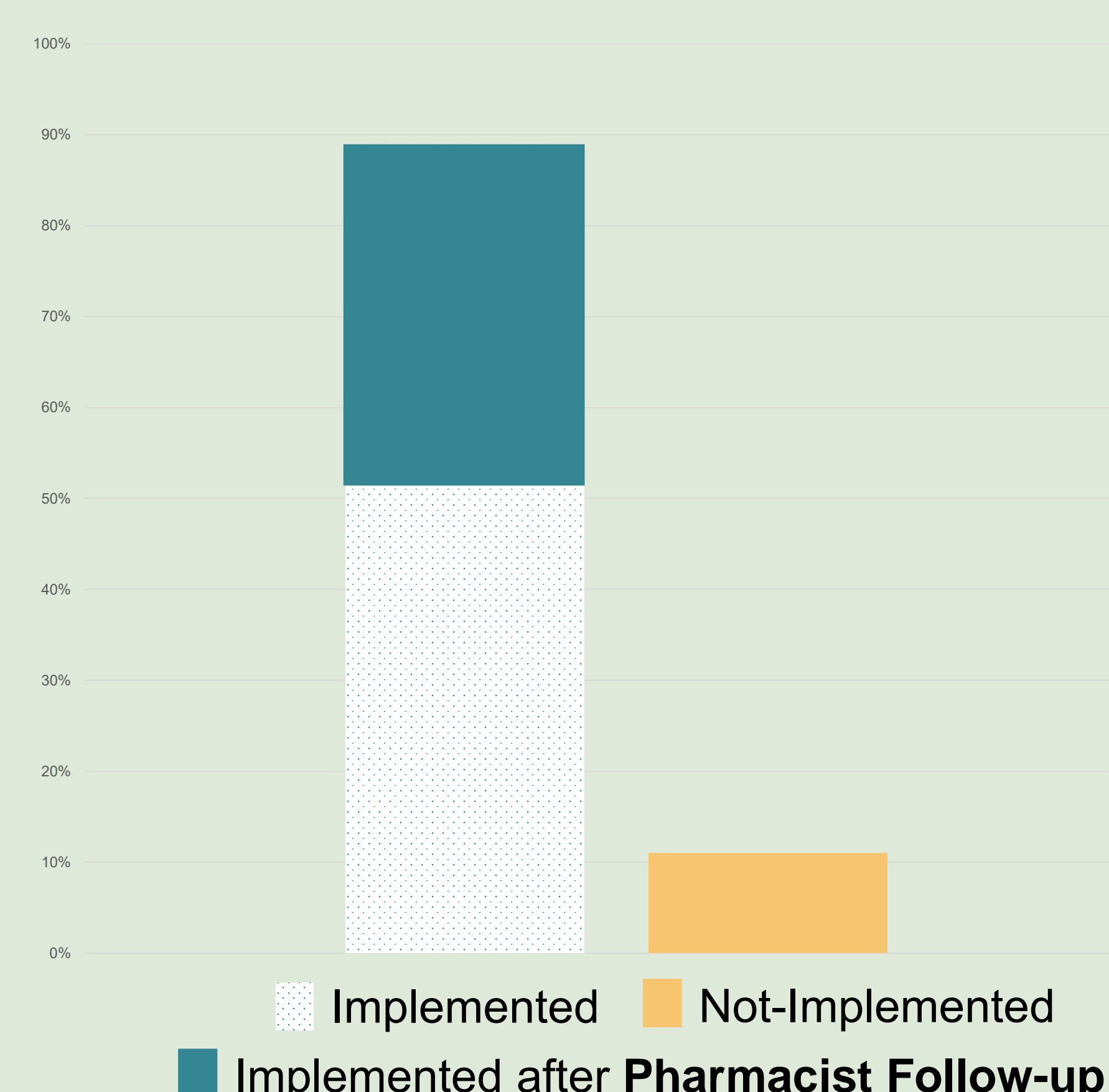
Pharmacist Recommendations

- Cardiologists adopted 70% of pharmacist recommendations during clinic review.
- Pharmacist recommendations primarily involved antithrombotic, lipid lowering and heart failure therapies.

Pharmacist Follow-up

- Primary care providers implemented 52% of cardiologist medication treatment plans following clinic letter communication.
- Primary care providers implemented 89% of medication treatment plans after pharmacist follow-up with targeted handover.

Impact of Pharmacist Follow-up on Primary Care Medication Implementation



Conclusion

Clinical pharmacist medication reviews and recommendations impact cardiologist treatment decisions.

Pharmacist follow-up dramatically increases primary care implementation of cardiologist medication treatment plans.

Pharmacist follow-up appears to overcome some of the current and system level issues that impair effective handover.

Acknowledgements

Cardiac Outreach Team, Cairns and Hinterland HHS and Torres and Cape HHS
Cairns Hospital Pharmacy Department
LiveLife Pharmacy Weipa
Thursday Island Pharmacy

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