

# PHARMACISTS AT THE HEALTH CENTER



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## BACKGROUND

At present, many of the regions in Sweden have pharmacists at health centers and more are yet to come. Some regions, such as Kronoberg have drug reviews in home care with pharmacists; a work that has been on going in the region since the late 90's. The department of pharmacy in the Region of Kronoberg in the south of Sweden was assigned to investigate the participation of pharmacists in the primary care to increase patients safety.

## PURPOSE

The aim of the study was to establish a model for pharmacists at the health center in purpose to improve drug follow-up, enhance the patients knowledge of their medication and also ease the work for doctors and nurses.

## RESULTS

In total the pharmacists analyzed the medication of 116 patients. Out of these, 106 were considered capable to answer the patient survey and 81 (76%) answered. 90% were satisfied or quite satisfied with the meeting with the pharmacist. Most of the patients experienced better knowledge about their medication since they met the pharmacist. Among a lot of things, they appreciated the extra time for medication discussions, the possibility to get their questions answered and they felt safer in their medication.

13 doctors and 4 nurses answered the survey. Most of the doctors were satisfied to cooperate with the pharmacist especially to have the pharmacist as a support to optimize their prescribing. Most of the doctors thought that the time they usually spend on reading the journal, reading the drug list and doing the medication reconciliation decreased or was the same.

70% of the doctors and nurses wanted access to pharmacists even in the future. 30% answered "Do not know".

*"Most of the patients experienced better knowledge about their medication since they met the pharmacist."*

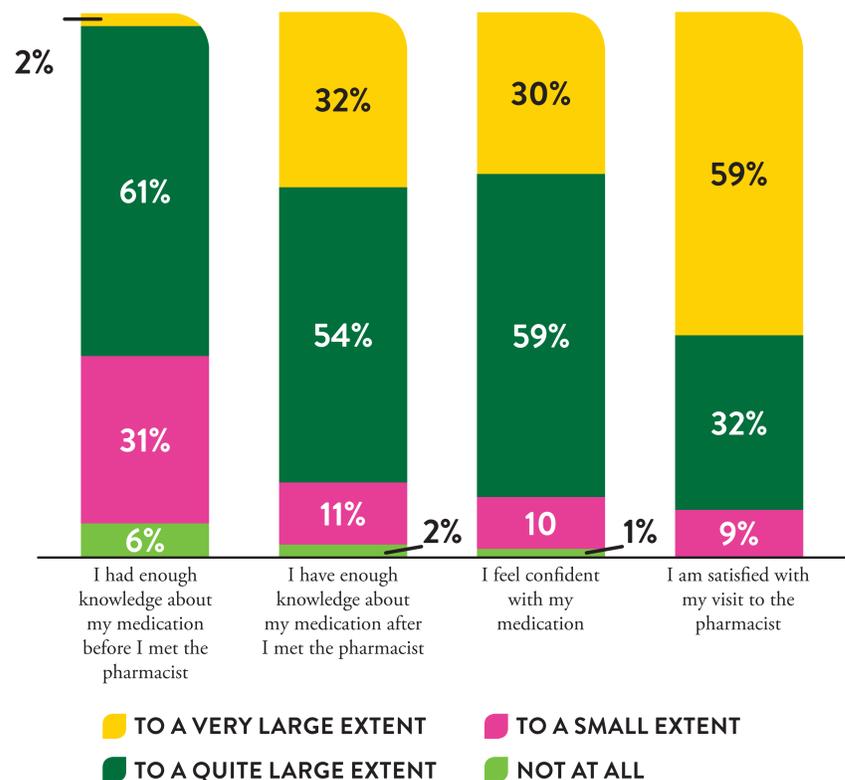
## METHODS

Two health centers had implemented receptions for the elderly and were chosen to participate in the study. Two pharmacists visited one health center each one day a week during the period of October 2016-June 2017. Patients aged  $\geq 75$  years with  $\geq 5$  drugs were included in the study by a nurse. The pharmacists met the patients for 30 minutes for medication reconciliation and information. After the visit the pharmacist did the medication review and documented the drug related problems in the journal including proposals to the doctor to optimize the medication.

The model was evaluated in two different surveys; one for patients and one for health care staff.

### PATIENT SURVEY AFTER VISIT TO THE PHARMACIST

In total 106 patients got a survey, 81 patients (76%) answered.



## CONCLUSION

The study has contributed to improve drug follow-up and enhancement of the patients' knowledge of their medication. It has also contributed to ease the work for doctors and nurses, both in terms of time and quality.

The evaluated model can be applied on other health centers in the Region of Kronoberg in Sweden but to crew 32 health centers one day a week there will be more pharmacists needed.

