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 pharmacist visits in home care with pharmacists; a work that has been ongoing 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."

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.

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