

INVESTIGATING NEED AND APPROPRIATENESS FOR PHARMACIST-LED VACCINATION SERVICES WITHIN A HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

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INTRODUCTION

Pharmacist-led vaccination services are an opportunity to facilitate patient access to vaccination and improve uptake.

AIMS

- To assess drivers for pharmacist-led vaccination services
- To understand patient expectations and pharmacist-preparedness for pharmacist-led vaccination services

METHOD

- Two self-administered questionnaires were designed to evaluate pharmacists' and patients' views on pharmacist-led vaccination services (Figure 1).
- Questionnaires were validated for content validity.
- Questionnaires were disseminated to the respective participant groups electronically via online forms and by physical dissemination.

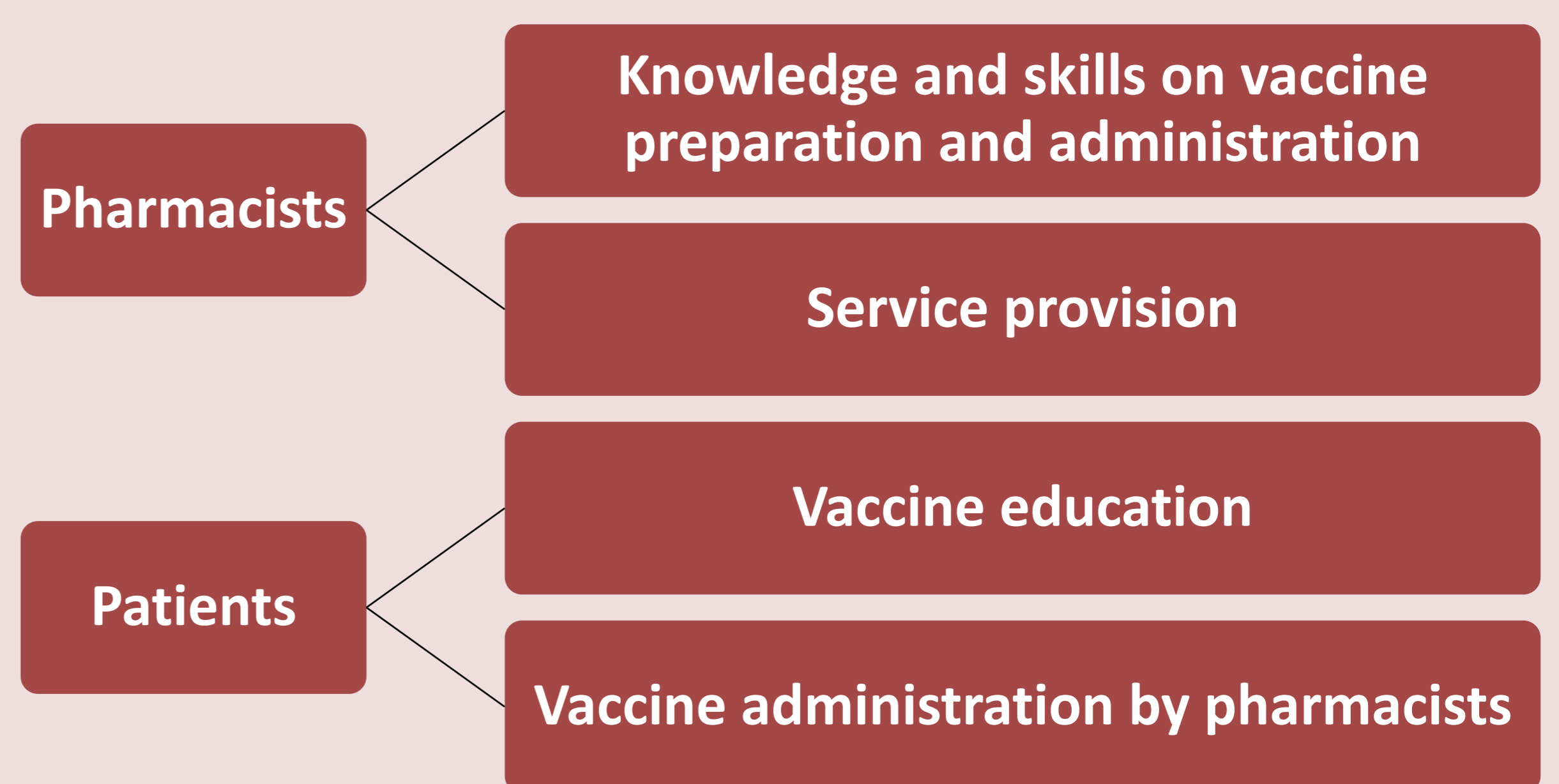


Figure 1. Objectives of the questionnaires

RESULTS

Pharmacists (N=62)

19 Willing to administer to adult patients

31 Aware of errors during preparation and administration of vaccines

42 Aware of current national guidelines

45 Aware of contraindications

58 Aware of procedures for vaccine storage

47 Vaccination services feasible to be offered from community pharmacies

28 Pharmacy premises require modifications to accommodate for vaccination services

Patients (N=163)

146 Trust pharmacist to administer influenza vaccine

102 Ask pharmacists regarding side-effects, general information, concerns, uses and other information regarding vaccines

71 Satisfied with pharmacist-provided information on vaccines

37 Not eager to pay for vaccination services

75 Willing to pay €5 for pharmacist-led vaccine administration

Pharmacists' and patients' feedback

CONCLUSION

The drivers that contribute to the implementation of pharmacist-led vaccination services include patient expectations, where patients view pharmacists as vaccine administrators, particularly for the influenza vaccine. The other driver is the level of preparedness among pharmacists. Pharmacists claim knowledge about vaccinology with less willingness in administration.

Providing the vaccine training programme to pharmacists may serve as empowerment to gain confidence in administration.

