

# A mixed methods study to explore the role of clinical pharmacy services delivered by undergraduate students in secondary care

Mundell A, Richardson C, Rathbone A

## Aim

To develop and evaluate a new work-based learning placement to enable pharmacy students to contribute to medication counselling as part of clinical pharmacy service delivery.

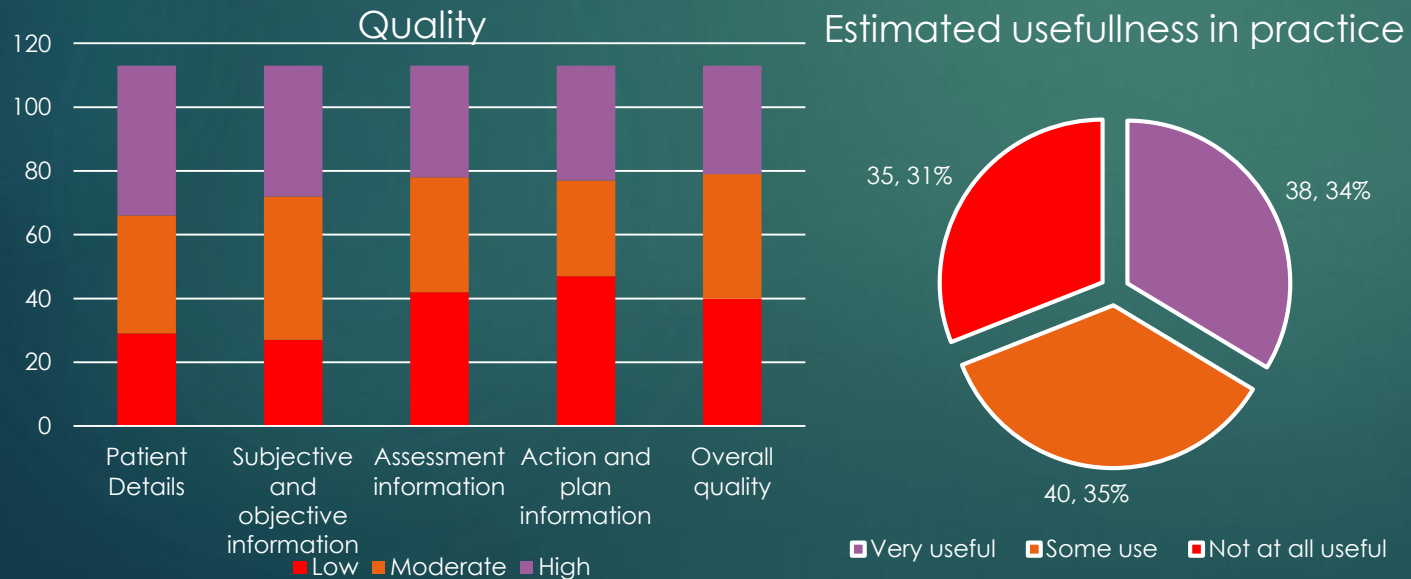
## Methods

Three entrustable professional activities (EPAs), counselling on: inhalers, simple analgesia and non-vitamin K oral anticoagulants (NOACs).

A mixed methods approach was chosen to evaluate the novel placement model.

## Results

Students completed 308 drug histories and medication counselling with patients. Of the patients counselled, simple analgesia counselling was given to 40% (n = 125) of patients, inhaler counselling to 41% (n = 129) and NOAC counselling to 9% (n = 29).



## Discussion:

The results indicate that clinical placements can be developed around EPAs that enable third-year pharmacy students to complete high-quality patient consultations. This included student's self-identification of limits of practice and queries to be handed over to a supervising pharmacist.

The findings suggest that students were able to complete medication histories, counsel patients and identify patients beyond their own competence. Third-year pharmacy students can have a positive impact on clinical service delivery by providing medication counselling within an EPA framework. The use of EPAs may allow time dedicated to medication counselling by the hospital pharmacy workforce, to be delegated to students.

This model represents a culture shift within pharmacy training whereby placements are positioned as an integral part of education and training.