

and adherence in older adults with cancer. The review highlights a lack of robust studies specifically targeting this patient population and limited scope to pool outcome data across included studies. Limitations of the review were that searches were restricted to English language publications and no grey literature was searched. Future research should focus specifically on older patients with cancer, and exercise rigour during intervention development, evaluation and reporting in order to generate findings that could inform future practice.

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PATIENT AND HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONER PERSPECTIVES

EXPLORATION OF THE VIEWS OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN A MENTAL HEALTH TRUST IN ENGLAND ON PHARMACISTS AS FUTURE APPROVED CLINICIANS: EARLY FINDINGS.

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Introduction: The 2007 amendment to the Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983 enabled various non-medical professionals to now qualify as approved clinicians (ACs); these included social workers, mental health and learning disability nurses, clinical psychologists and occupational therapists. [1–2] As ACs, these professionals can take on roles of clinical leadership whilst assuming responsibility for patients under the Act. Although mental health pharmacists have recognised specialist clinical roles and regularly work alongside these professionals in caring for patients, they are not presently permitted to practise as ACs.

Aim: This study sets out to investigate the views of healthcare professionals working in a mental health trust in England on this hitherto unexplored group of the mental health workforce as potential ACs.

Methods: Upon obtaining ethics approval, pharmacists, ACs and other experienced mental health professionals working in one mental health trust in England were approached via internal trust email to take part in a digitally audio recorded semi-structured interview to explore their views on pharmacists as potential ACs in future. A thematic analysis is being performed on the entire set of transcripts and an additional sentiment analysis will be applied to specific parts of the dataset.

Results: A total of 11 interviews were completed with 6 pharmacists, 4 medical ACs and 1 'other' mental health professional thus far, with recruitment ongoing. Emerging themes included wide recognition among participants of

highly valued key skills of pharmacists within mental health services provision, for instance their ability to access and appraise specialist literature as well as their analytical skills to apply expert knowledge to real-life cases. Participants identified unique challenges to pharmacists potentially becoming ACs in future, namely the traditional organisational structures whereby pharmacists are line managed and clinically supervised from within a pharmacy department which sits external to the clinical teams they typically work in, and the lack of pharmacists being fully embedded in interdisciplinary teams.

Conclusion: Since this is the first study of its kind to be conducted on a small cohort of participants working within one mental health trust in England, this qualitative study will likely highlight the need for further research to be carried out on the topic, such as data collection in several other NHS trusts as well as recruiting participants from the working group and other stakeholders involved in the most recent amendment of the Act. Whilst data collection and analysis are ongoing, initial findings help shed light on potential barriers and also possible solutions to these, as well as other opportunities for pharmacists wishing to assume higher leadership roles within mental health services in England.

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A CROSS-SECTIONAL SURVEY OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' EXPERIENCES WITH, VIEWS OF, AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS, PRACTICE-BASED PHARMACISTS

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Introduction: Five-year pilot schemes were announced in both England and Northern Ireland (NI) to integrate practice-based pharmacists (PBPs) into general practices. The NI scheme anticipates that there will be 300 whole time equivalent PBPs in post by the end of the pilot (2020/2021).^[1] There is little existing UK literature on PBPs' role evolution and few studies have explored general practitioners' (GPs) experiences of pharmacist integration into primary care practice.

Aim: To investigate GPs' experiences with PBPs, their views about the PBP role and its impact upon patients and GPs, and their attitudes towards collaboration with PBPs.

Methods: A paper-based self-administered questionnaire was mailed to all general practices (n=329) across Northern Ireland (NI) on two occasions during September and October 2019, and was completed by one GP in every practice who had most contact with the PBP. The questionnaire was developed following a comprehensive literature review and comprised four sections (Table 1). Descriptive analyses were conducted using SPSS v26 and responses to open-ended questions were analysed thematically.