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# Pharmacists and physicians’ knowledge and skills in interdisciplinary pharmaceutical care

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**INTRODUCTION**

Appropriate collaboration between pharmacists and physicians is of interest, especially for interdisciplinary medication reviews which mainly concerns older patients. This study addresses pharmacists and physicians’ knowledge and skillsto look for differences .

**METHODS**

The knowledge and skills of pharmacists, physicians and trainees were cross-sectionally assessed by a standardized test with the domains basic pharmacology knowledge, clinical or applied pharmacology knowledge, and pharmacotherapy skills which was developed for the study. Comparisons were made by ANOVAs. Years of working experience was studied as an explanatory variable for the test score.

**RESULTS**

294 participants were included: 113 pharmacist, 61 pharmacist trainees, 67 general physicians (GPs), and 53 GP trainees. The response rates were 88%, 86%, 87% and 93%, respectively. On all three domains, pharmacist scored significantly higher than the other groups (p< 0.05), except for pharmacist trainees who scored comparable on basic knowledge (p=0.253) and prescription writing skills (p=0.283). GPs scored significantly lower than the otherson prescription writing skills (p<0.05). The pharmacy trainees outperformed GPs, but not GP trainees, on basic pharmacology knowledge and prescription writing skills. The effect of working experience on the test results are shown in the Figure.

**CONCLUSIONS**

This study shows that differences between pharmacists and GPs exist on the level of pharmacology knowledge and skills. Where pharmacist tend to learn by doing, physicians tend to lose knowledge and skills by time. These differences may be of importance for dividing tasks in interdisciplinary medication reviews.

**FIGURE**: Changes in knowledge and skills scores on the assessment (y) by working experience (x)