



An explorative study into the feasibility of oral health promotion and interventions by pharmacists working in general practice. A qualitative study in the North East of England

Focus Group Topic Guide

The following guide outlines the key areas for exploration during the interview.

Aims and objectives

- To explore the knowledge and current practice of primary care pharmacists, general medical practitioners and administrative staff and patients regarding the role of the pharmacist in oral health
- To explore the attitudes towards and perceptions of primary care pharmacists, general medical practitioners and administrative staff, and patients regarding the role of the pharmacist in providing oral health promotion and interventions
- To explore any barriers and facilitators for utilising pharmacists in primary care to improving the interprofessional management of oral health

Introduction

Aim: To introduce the research and set the context for the proceeding discussion

- Introduce self: Researchers background, University of Sunderland
- Introduce the study: what it is about
- Talk through key points
 - This will be a conversation where I will some questions
 - These questions can then be discussed amongst the group
 - It will last between approximately 60 minutes
 - There are no right or wrong answers
 - You don't have to answer all of the questions if you don't want to
 - Participation is voluntary and participant can withdraw at any time
 - It is important that only one person talks at any time
- Confidentiality/ anonymity
 - Transcripts will be anonymised
 - In report writing, any quotes won't be identified as being you
- The focus group will be audio recorded
 - The recording will be kept secure, only accessed by the four researchers working on the project
- This piece of paper is just to help me remember what questions I want to ask you, and I may make some brief notes during the interview to remind me to go back to something you said later on if that's ok
- Do the participants have any questions?



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All Participants

Roles of the GP practice pharmacist

Prompts: What has been your current experience/attitudes towards this role, what sort of work do you think practice pharmacists do, length of appointments, focus of this role, crossover or segregation between GP role and nurse's role.

Patient education on oral health

Prompts: Where has it come from, which healthcare professionals have talked about oral health with you, awareness of any link between oral and systemic health, side-effects of medications, expectations of who should do this

Barriers to dental services

Prompts: Access, costs, phobias, priority of oral health, education

Communication between general practice and the dental team

Prompts: Current thoughts, expectations, ways to improve, good examples of interprofessional work in practice

Opportunities for pharmacists in this role

Prompts: What else could pharmacists do, incorporation of oral health advice into medication reviews and chronic disease management, signposting, acceptability of oral health advice from this professional group

Anything further to discuss?

Next steps

- Thank the participants
- Do they have any remaining questions about the research
- Reassurance around confidentiality and anonymity