Pharmacist-led Point-of-Care services

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INTRODUCTION

- The role of pharmacists has evolved to include patient-focused activities, administrative duties, and public health responsibilities.
- Point-of-care testing (POCT) is a diagnostic test performed outside a lab, providing quick and accurate results for managing chronic diseases and acute infections.¹

AIMS

- Identify POCTs available and offered within the community pharmacy setting.
- Examine opportunities presented by POCT.
- Study implementation of different POCTs considering guidelines, devices used, standardization, need, and pharmacoeconomics aspects.

METHOD Development and validation of questionnaire Distribution of questionnaire **Pharmacist Patient Questionnaire** questionnaire - Usage patterns - Range of POCT - Willingness to pay services provided - Perception of serve - Test frequency availability - Device reliability -Pharmacoeconomic considerations

RESULTS

Pharmacist perception questionnaire (N=119)

•Most Common Tests:

- Blood pressure monitoring (n=111)
- Urinalysis (n=104)
- Blood glucose monitoring (n=88)

•Device Reliability:

• Positive feedback, but concerns on calibration and standardization.

•Financials:

- Majority of pharmacists (n=85) reported fees covered expenses.
- A total of n=63 pharmacists expressed that patients were willing to pay the fee.

Patient perception questionnaire (N=64)

• Payment expectations varied across tests, some respondents expected free blood pressure (n=17) and blood glucose testing (n=9), most were willing to pay a small fee. Payment expectations for urinallysis were more varied, with some open to higher fees.

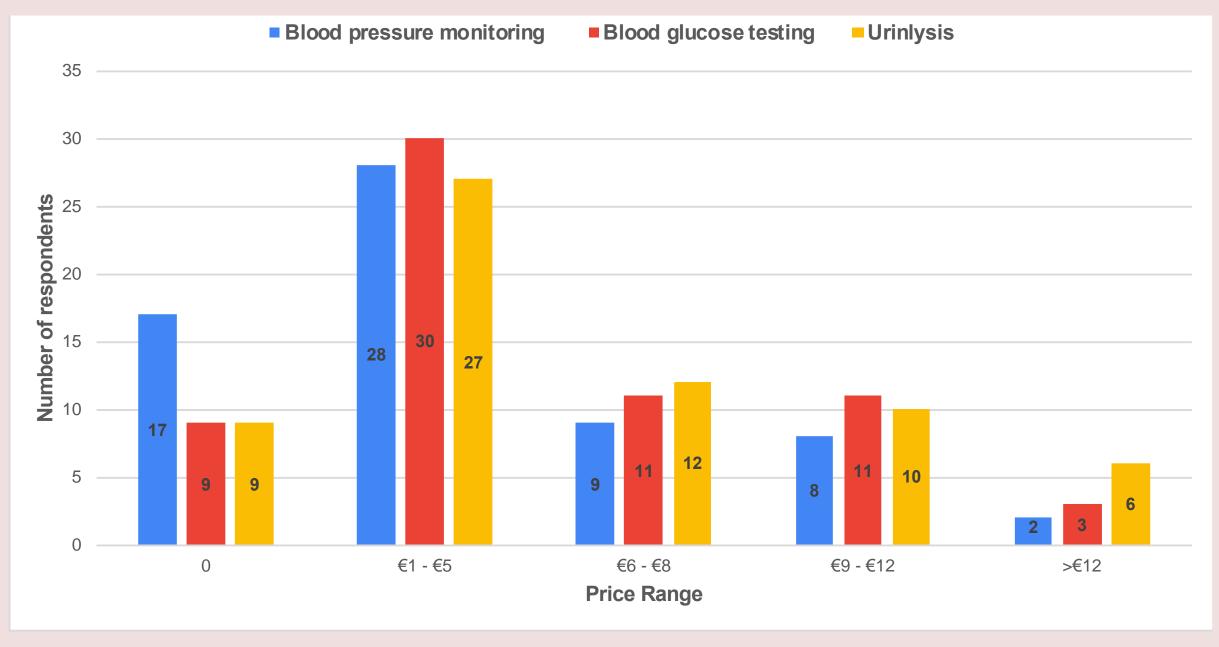


Figure 1: Willingness to pay for Point-of-Care Testing Services in Pharmacies (N=64)

CONCLUSION

POCT in Community Pharmacies

 Widely used for screening and managing non communicable diseases

Challenges

- Calibration
- Training
- Cost accessibility

Solutions

- Standardization
- Improved pharmacist training
- Better financial models

Impact

- Ensures access to POCT
- Optimizes patient care
- Enhances disease prevention
- Reduces
 healthcare
 burden

REFERENCE

1.Khan AR, Hussain WL, Shum HC, Hassan SU. Point-of-care testing: a critical analysis of the market and future trends. Front Lab Chip Technol. 2024; 3:1394752 doi: 10.3389/frlct.2024.1394752