

# Pharmacist-led Point-of-Care services

Natalia Ferris and Professor Lillian M. Azzopardi

Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Malta, Msida, Malta  
email: natalia.ferris.20@um.edu.mt

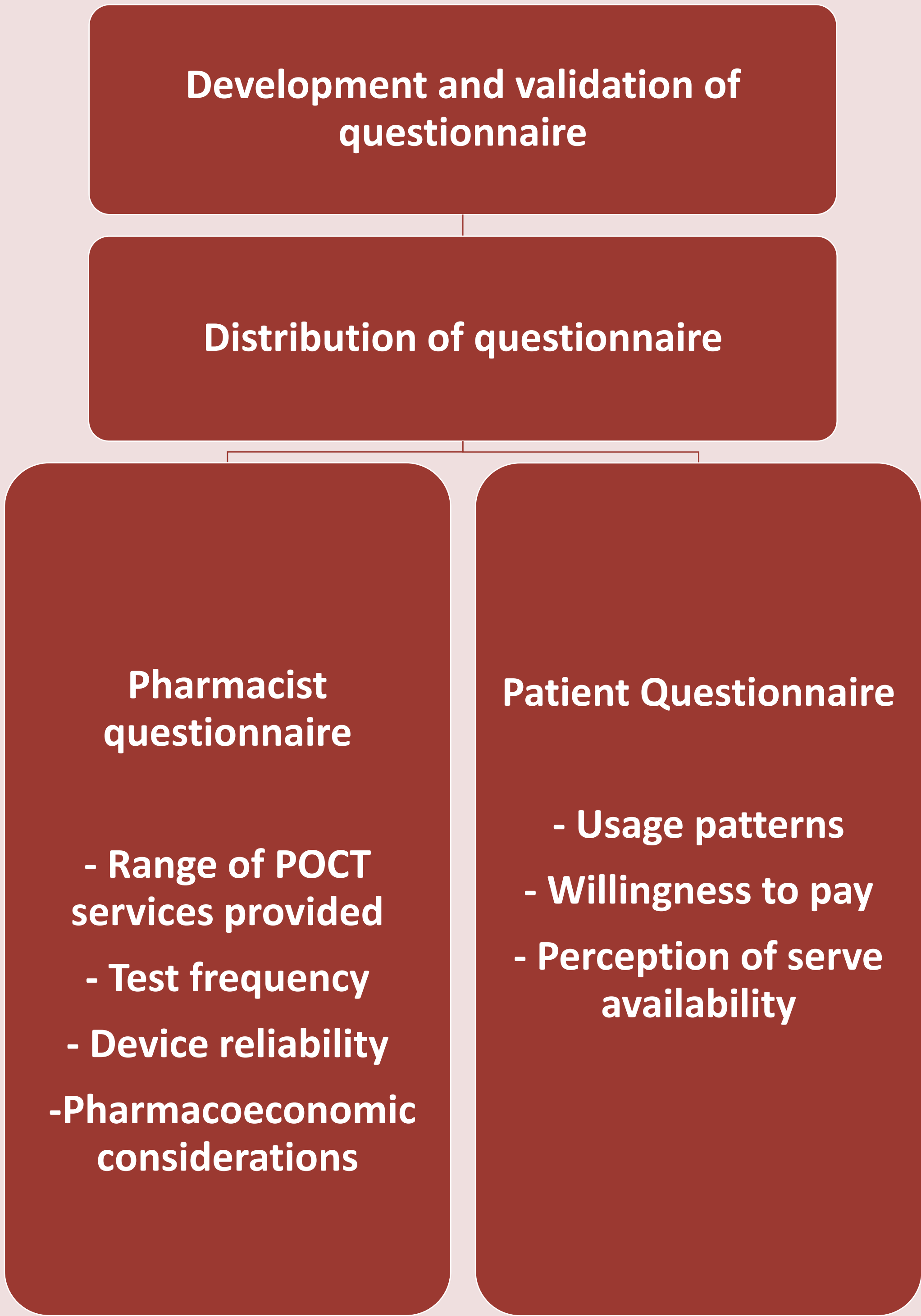
## INTRODUCTION

- 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.<sup>1</sup>

## 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



## 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 urinalysis were more varied, with some open to higher fees.

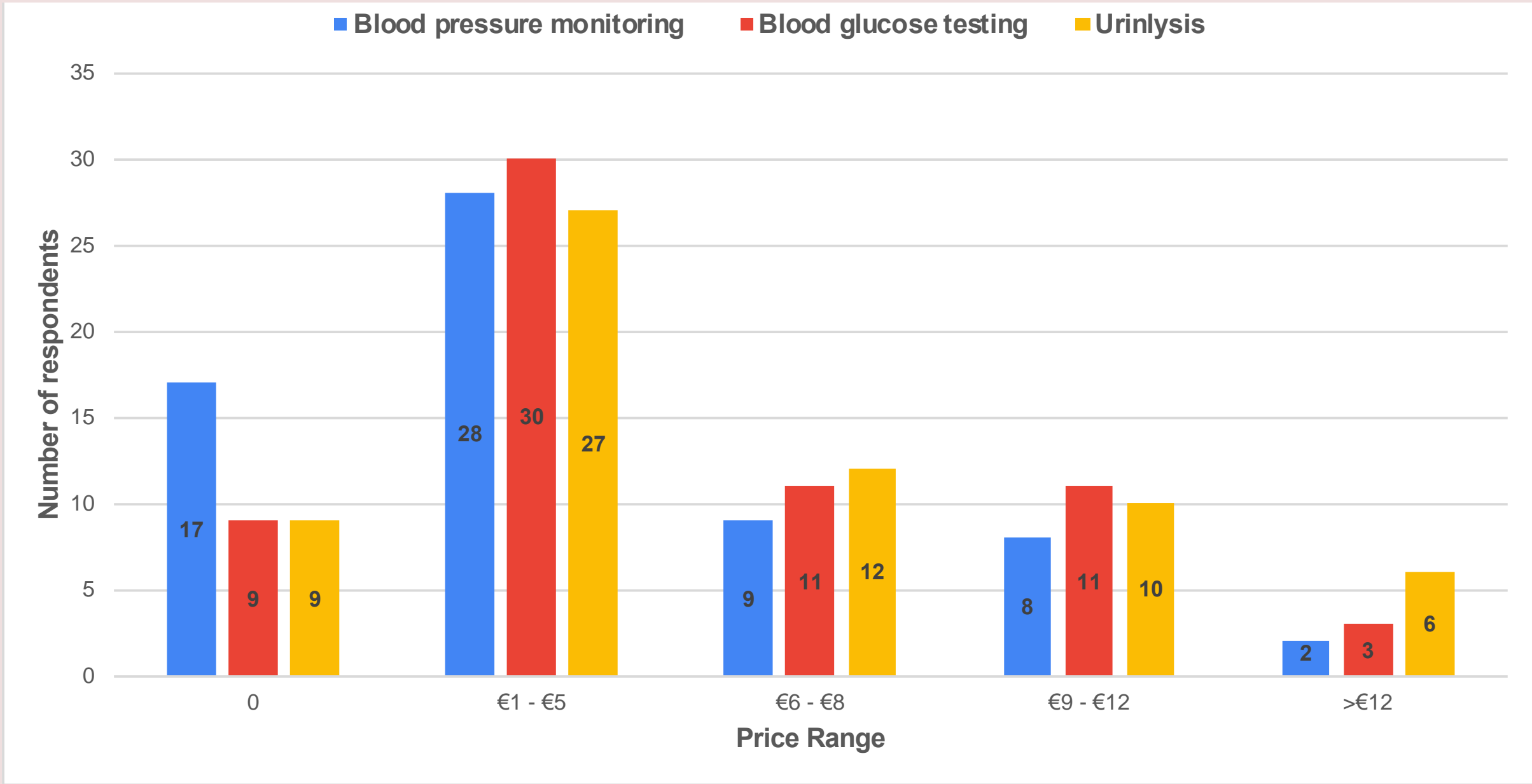
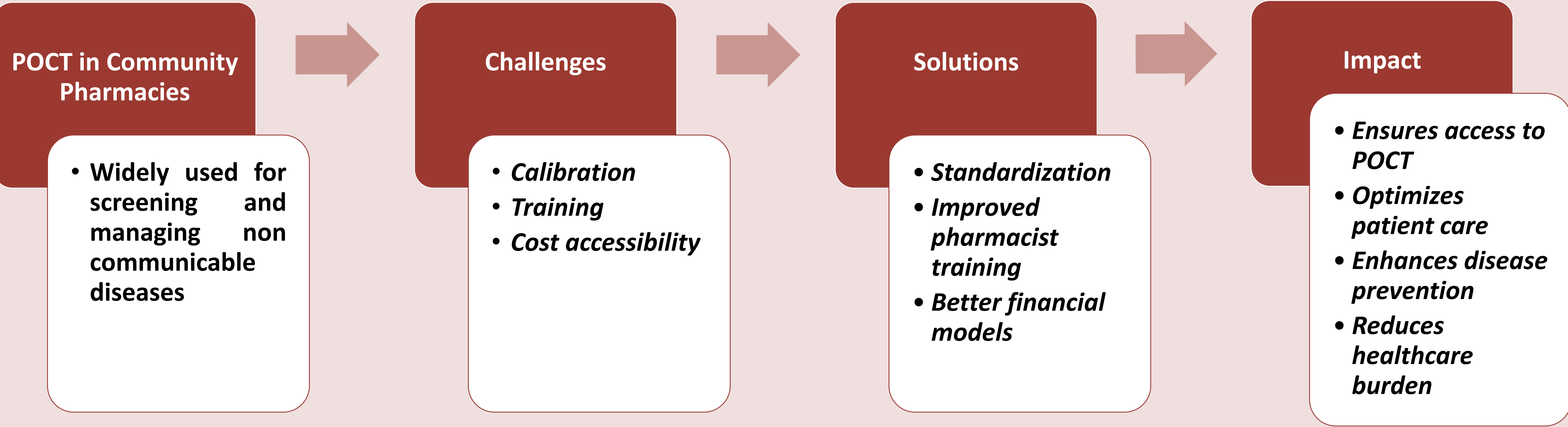


Figure 1: Willingness to pay for Point-of-Care Testing Services in Pharmacies (N=64)

## CONCLUSION



## 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