

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE Pharmacy Of Your Choice SCHEME AND INTERPROFESSIONAL RELATIONS

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## AIM

To evaluate the impact of the **Pharmacy Of Your Choice [POYC]** scheme on interprofessional relations, via observational case studies that delve deeper into the collaboration of healthcare professionals [HCPs].

## METHOD

Qualitative observational case studies were carried out, in a local community pharmacy registered to the POYC scheme, to closely monitor cases illustrating interprofessional collaboration between pharmacists and physicians. Observation was carried out on a 3 hour weekly basis between 15 November 2008 and 1 October 2009, for a total of 51 hours.

Figure 1 shows a pre-prepared template to document ongoing relevant information during those 3 hours. This information was tabulated on an EXCEL spreadsheet [MS Office Excel '07] for clarification of handling of results.

## RESULTS

- 15 case studies were recorded. For 4 cases the primary point of contact was the pharmacist, and the remaining 11 consulted their physician.
- The predominant cases discussed between the HCPs were classified as specific Drug Related Problems [DRPs] that were based on PCNE Classification v5.01.
- Dose administration problems [4 cases] involved aspirin, warfarin, carbamazepine and venlafaxine. Medication alteration [2 cases] involving statins and ARBs.
- Dosage adjustment [3 cases] involved valsartan, simvastatin and venlafaxine.
- Newly added medication [4 cases] and single case reports involving interrelations revolved around adverse effects [enalapril] and an Out of Stock scenario [amlodipine].

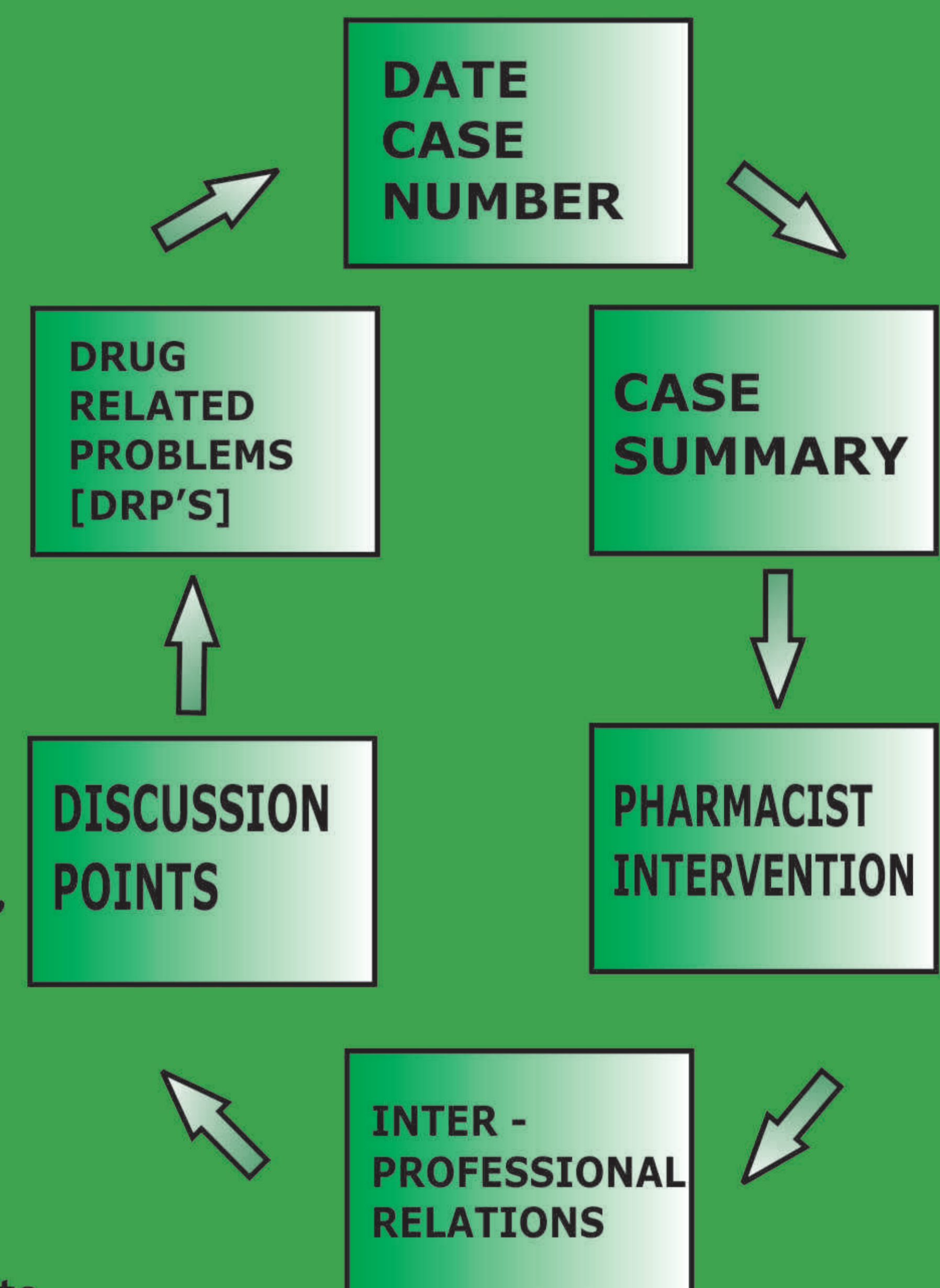


Fig.1 Template of Case Documentation

## CONCLUSIONS

- Communication and collaboration between healthcare professionals is important for the optimal functioning of the POYC scheme. When pharmacists and physicians work together as a team, patient outcome is improved.
- Having a good interprofessional relation, quickens the POYC process and bypasses any extra queries and questions along the way.
- Interprofessional relations are essential prior to any form of medication amendment [type, alteration or dose] to ensure that the patient does actually require an amendment, the doctor's prescription is available and POYC central office is informed to start sending over medication supplies reflecting the new alteration [eg. dosage increase] for the patient.