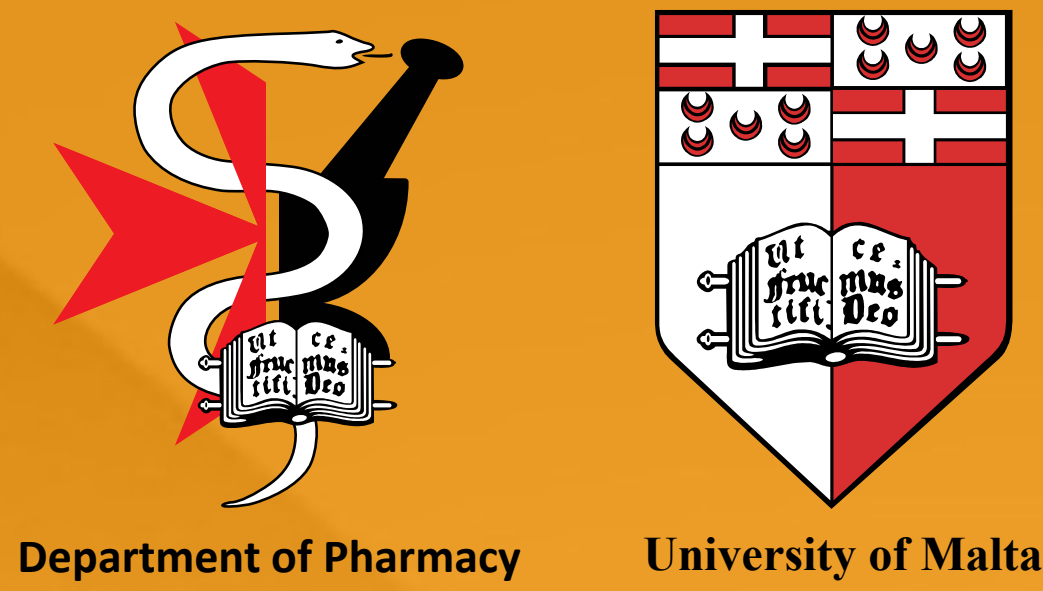


# Developing Modules to Prepare Pharmacists for Prescribing

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## INTRODUCTION

Pharmacist prescribing is a professional intervention undertaken by pharmacists to contribute to timely, rationale and safe patient management. It involves a collaboration with physicians to determine an on-going patient’s chronic drug therapy. A suitable prescribing training course is important to enable pharmacists to understand the beneficial outcomes of prescribing and to increase their prescribing competencies.

## AIMS

- To develop 3 modules to prepare pharmacists for prescribing
- To validate the completed modules by a panel of experts
- To evaluate the modules

## METHOD

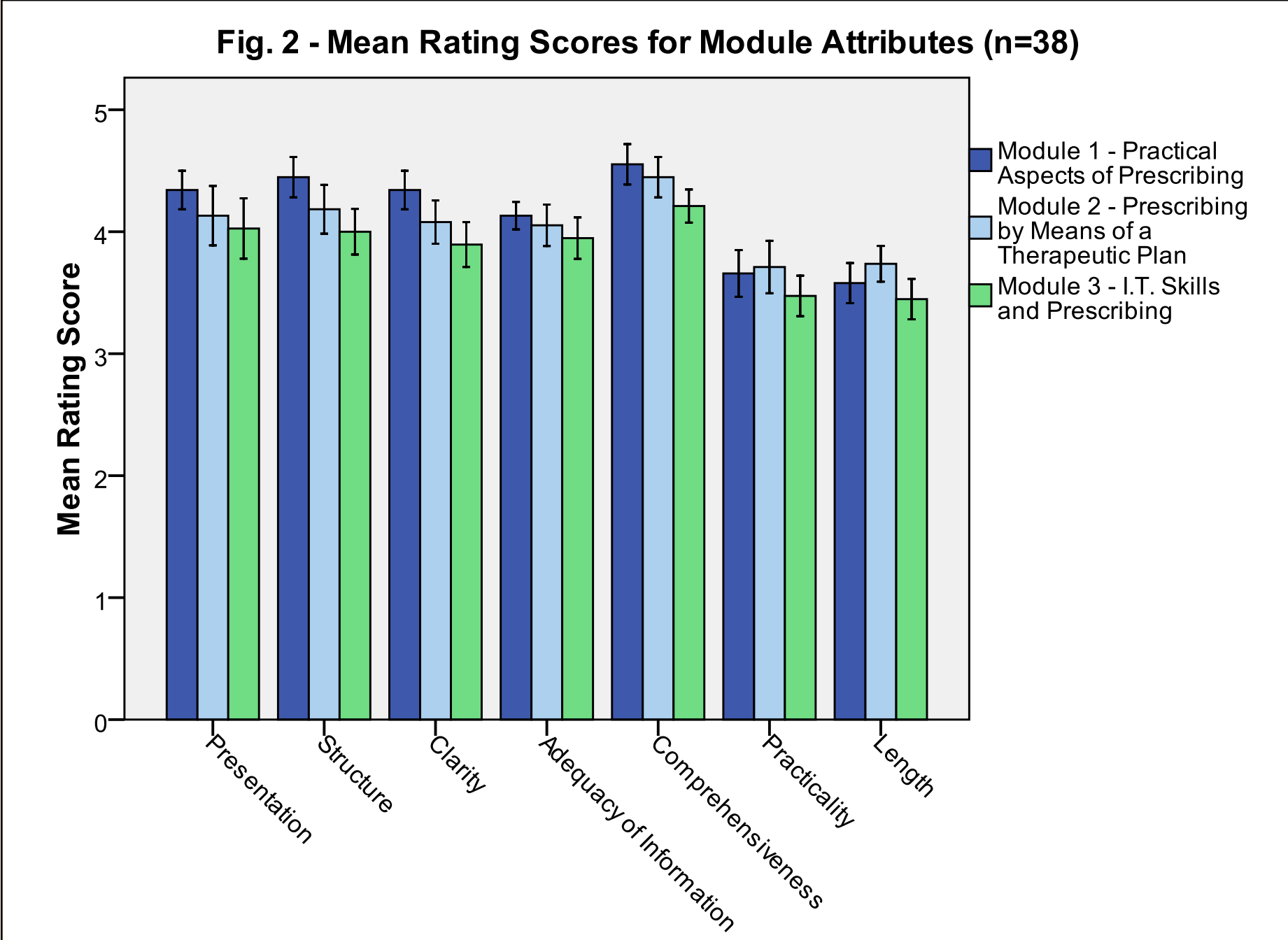
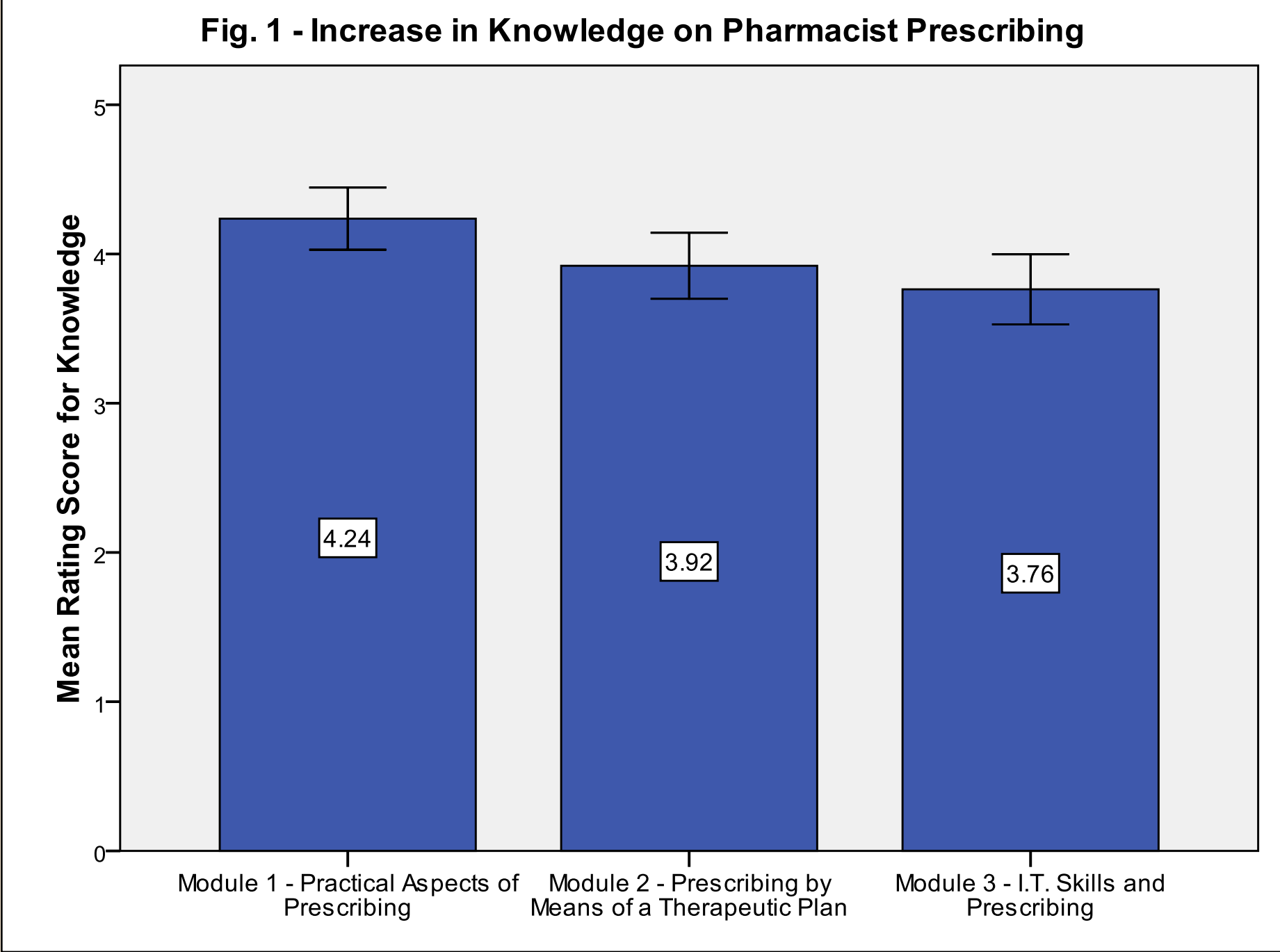
- The methodology consisted of four phases. Phase one commenced with an intensive literature review research strategy. Various books and peer- reviewed journals were consulted to gain the latest evidence-based information on pharmacist prescribing. A number of local projects were also reviewed.
- Phase two focused on the creation of the modules based on the framework provided by the previous study (Schembri, 2009 <sup>1</sup>). The software package that was used to develop the modules was Microsoft® Office Powerpoint 2010.
- Phase three consisted of validation of the modules. Both face and content validity were assessed by a panel of experts.
- In phase four, the validated modules were then distributed to a random sample of 50 community pharmacists together with an Evaluation Questionnaire, so as to assess the pharmacists’ perception of the modules and their opinions regarding pharmacist prescribing in Malta.

## RESULTS

- Three modules were developed and validated. Module 1: Practical aspects of pharmacist prescribing, Module 2: Prescribing by means of a therapeutic plan and Module 3: Electronic prescribing (Table 1).
- Results show that the majority of the pharmacists have a positive overall opinion regarding the developed modules, with 76% (n=38) claiming that all of the modules increased their knowledge regarding pharmacist prescribing (Fig. 1). Module 1 was preferred, obtaining a score of 4.15 on a 5- point Likert scale for different module attributes (Fig. 2). 82% (n=38) of the pharmacists were willing to undertake an educational course on pharmacist prescribing if the course was available.

Table 1: Contents of the Developed Modules

| Module 1- Practical Aspects of Prescribing   | Module 2- Prescribing by Means of a Therapeutic Plan  | Module 3- I.T Skills and Prescribing   |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prescribing Models</li><li>• Communication and Consultation Skills</li><li>• Medication Errors</li><li>• Continuing Professional Development</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patient Medication Records</li><li>• Clinical Management Plans</li><li>• Diagnostic Testing</li><li>• Pharmacovigilance</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electronic Prescribing</li><li>• Computerisation of Guidelines to Facilitate Prescribing</li></ul> |



## CONCLUSION

Through the processes of development and validation, modules on pharmacist prescribing were created. The modules were well received and following the suggested improvements, they can be used to provide pharmacists and pharmacy students with a better understanding of the tasks associated with prescribing, and pave the way for aspiring pharmacists to provide a safe and efficient prescribing service.

### Reference(s)

1. Schembri A. Devising a Course to Enhance Prescribing Competence [Project]. Msida (Malta): University of Malta; 2009.