

Team-based Opioid Stewardship in Ontario: A Pharmacist Perspective

It Takes a Team: Collaboration Inside and Out

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Introduction

- 184 family health teams across Ontario expand access to comprehensive healthcare services among 25% Ontarian. [1]
- 170 pharmacists are currently employed as salaried FHT employees funded by the Ontario MOHLTC. [2]
- FHTs provide pharmacists with opportunities to showcase expertise and collaborate with team members as key medication specialists to best meet patient's needs.
- Although included in family health teams from the start of planning, vague opportunities exist for pharmacists to realize their professional vision.

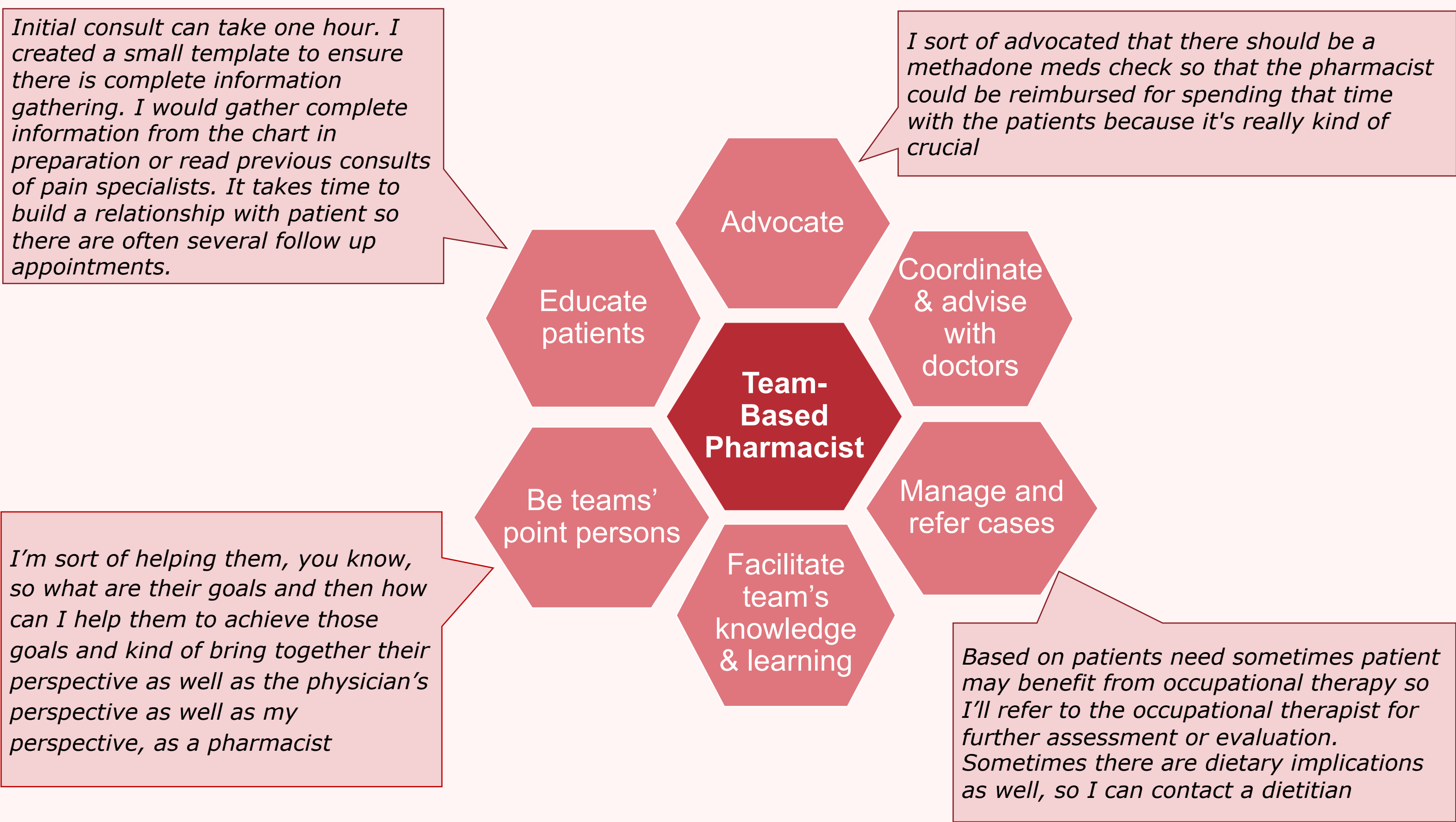
Objective

To understand the current role of primary care team-based pharmacists in chronic pain management and opioid stewardship.

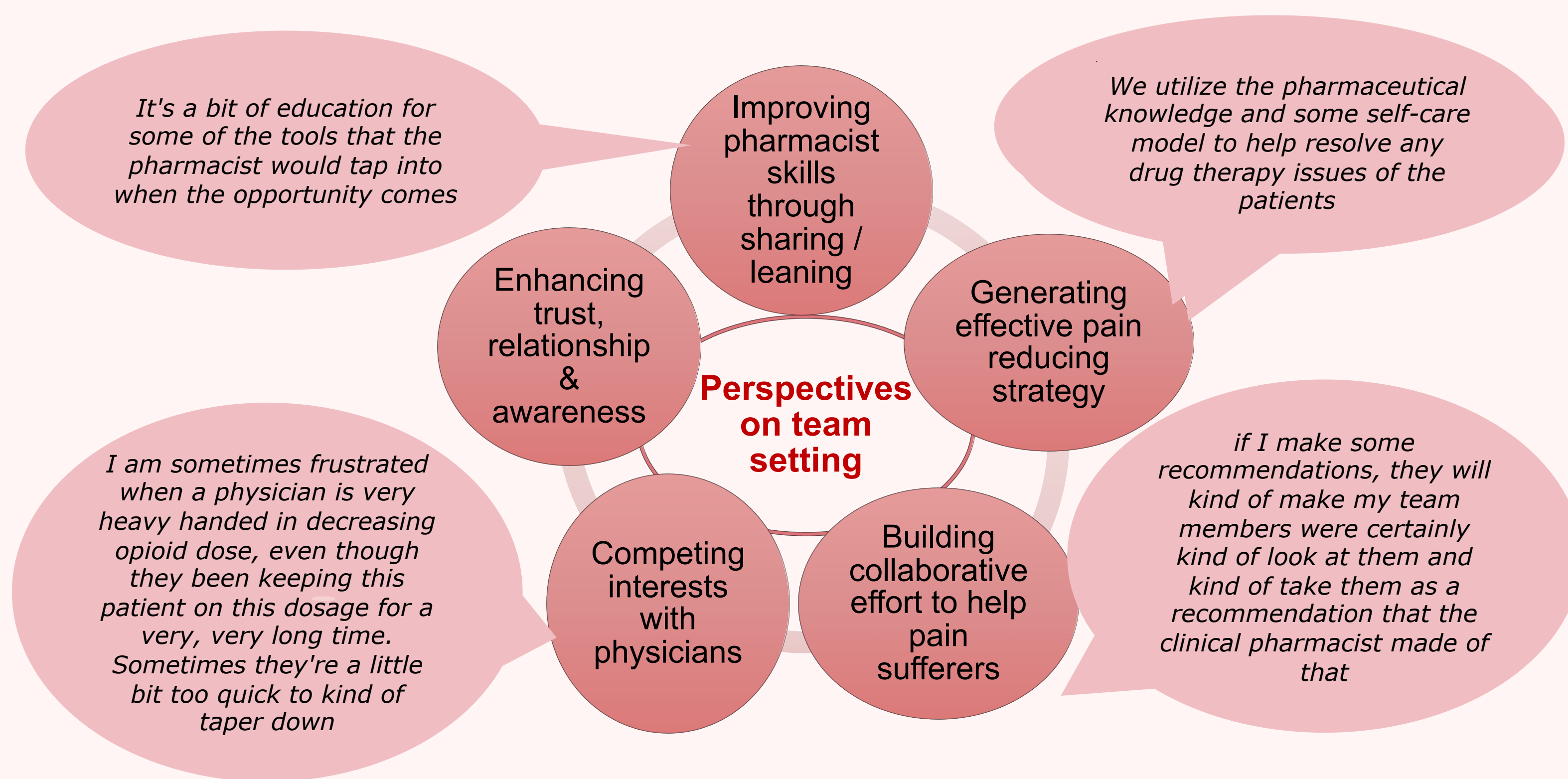
Methods

- Pharmacists (N=88) working in team-based primary care settings across Ontario participated in a provincial survey about clinical activities in chronic pain management and opioid stewardship. [3]
- 15 pharmacists then agreed to attend teleconferenced, semi-structured interviews that explored their perspectives on their role in chronic pain and opioid stewardship, challenges and opportunities in team-based primary care.
- The interviews were recorded and transcribed using a web-based teleconferencing platform.
- Interviewees reviewed accuracy of transcriptions
- Two coders of different backgrounds (public health and pharmacists) coded the transcripts to ensure reliability
- Authors wrote memos along the data analysis process
- Memos were reviewed by additional 3 team members

Pharmacist's Roles in Opioid Stewardship and Pain Care

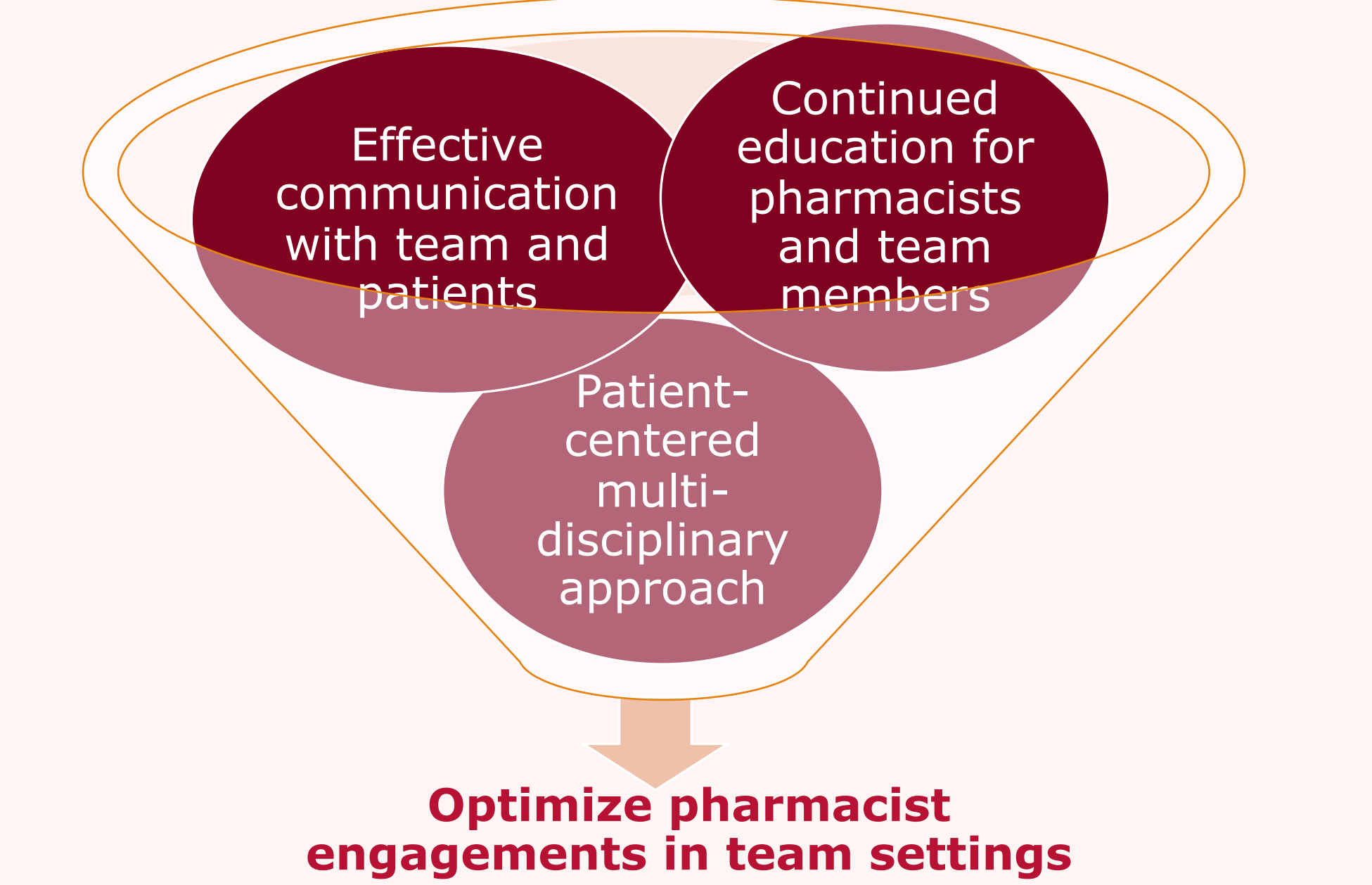


Pharmacist's Perspectives on Team-Based Settings



Recommendations & Conclusions

- Pharmacists play determinative, leadership roles in effective, quality opioid stewardship and pain care in team-based pain care in Ontario.
- Team-based practices provide pharmacists with unique collaborative opportunities but also distinct challenges.
- Optimizing pharmacists' roles in team settings benefits communities' health.



References

- [1] Ashcroft, R., Donnelly, C., Gill, S., Dancey, M., Lam, S., Grill, A. K., & Mehta, K. (2021). The Delivery of Patient Care in Ontario's Family Health Teams during the First Wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Healthcare Policy/Politiques de Sante*, 17(2), 72-89. <https://doi.org/10.12927/hcpol.2021.26656>
- [2] Hadden, H., & Singh, S. (2017). Five Things You Need To Know About Family Health Team Pharmacists. *Ontario Pharmacist*, 81(2), 8-9. <https://www.afhto.ca/wp-content/uploads/Evidence-of-Value-TOP-2017-Issue-2-FHT.pdf>
- [3] Chang, F., Naqvi, A.A., Laeer, C., Lui, E., & Nguyen, H. (2022 June 10-12). Current Role of Primary Care Team-Based Pharmacists in Opioid Stewardship, Self-Perceived Confidence and Importance. Poster presented at: *The Canadian Pharmacy Conference 2022: Pharmacy Rising, Excellence in Pharmacy Practice Research*, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

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