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**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES
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Barriers and facilitators for the implementation of a pharmacist prescribing service in Switzerland

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Background



Shortage of general medical practitioners (GPs) and health care system rising costs.



Expansion of pharmacists' responsibilities is one of the measures to face it.



In 2019, the **Therapeutic Products Act in Switzerland** was revised to allow pharmacist prescribing.

The pharmacists prescribing service is one of the new roles for community pharmacists.



However, its **implementation needs to be supported.**

Justification

As **first step**, factors (**barriers and facilitators**), that influence this implementation, need to be understood.

Purpose and method: pharmacists



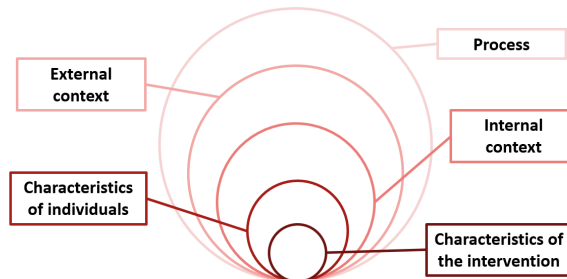
1 To identify the barriers and facilitators related to the implementation for the pharmacist prescribing service in community pharmacies.



Design [**Semi-structured interviews** with community pharmacists

Inclusion criteria & process [Practice of ≥ 1 year in pharmacy in the French-speaking Switzerland
Recruitment through LinkedIn®, pharmacy associations and direct contacts with chains
Interview guide developed using CFIR* and piloted

Analysis [Data recorded and transcribed (Trint v2022)
Thematic analysis using CFIR (MAXQDA v2022)
Intercoder reliability assured (10% data)



CFIR : Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research

Purpose and method: associations



2 To summarize the interventions developed by the cantonal community pharmacists associations in the French-speaking part of Switzerland to support implementation.



Design [**A five-item questionnaire**

Survey development

[Developed by a group of academic pharmacists with expertise in the service
5 topics → initiatives with pharmacists, communication (patients, practitioners, politicians) and collaboration with other associations

Procedure

[Submitted to each board of the six cantonal pharmacy associations
(Vaud, Fribourg, Jura, Valais, Geneva and Neuchâtel)
Responded by email

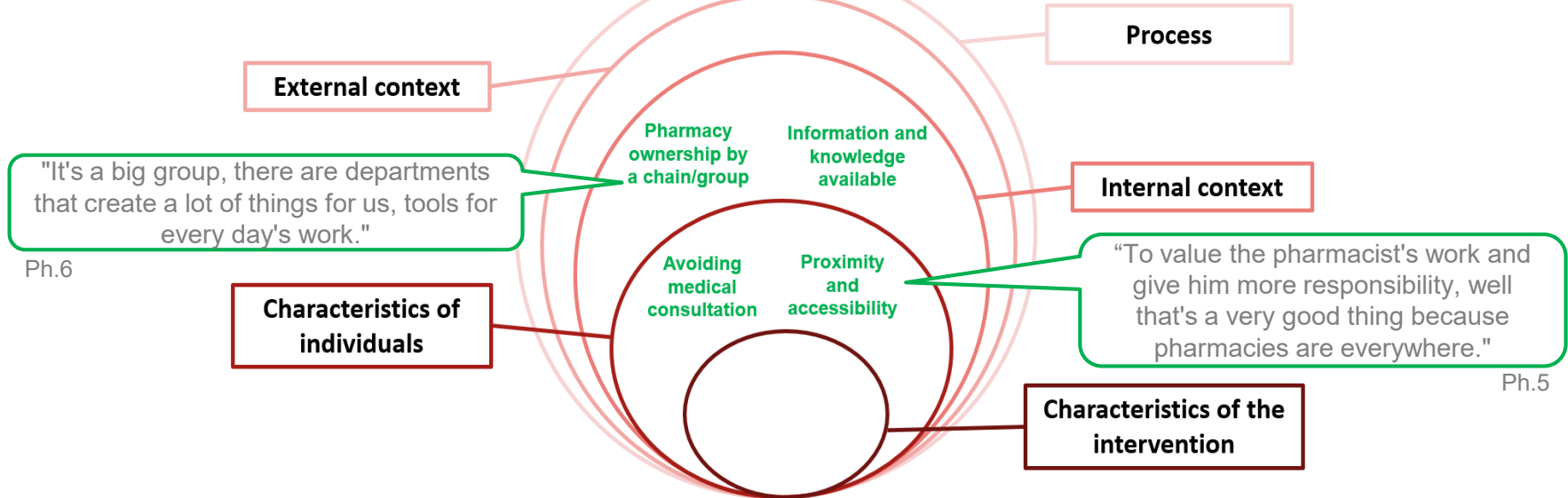
Results: pharmacists



1

- ✓ **Ten community pharmacists interviewed**, last interview without new codes found (saturation to be reached?)
- ✓ 50% women; 80% pharmacy owners
- ✓ Prescription of medication throughout the service the previous 6 months was low or 0-20 (30%), medium or 21-50 (30%) and high or >50 (40%)

Facilitators



Results: pharmacy associations



2 5/6 responses of pharmacy associations

5 Questions

Initiatives: 100% **with** interventions (training, documentation, support)

Communication patients: 100% **without** interventions
Interventions' utility: $\bar{x} = 6.4$ out of 10

Communication physicians: 100% **without** interventions
Interventions' utility: $\bar{x} = 4.0$ out of 10

Communication politicians: 100% **without** interventions
Interventions' utility: $\bar{x} = 4.8$ out of 10

Collaboration between associations: 60% **without** interventions



Conclusion



- ✓ The **most frequent factors** influencing the implementation of pharmacists prescribing were highlighted.
- ✓ **Interventions of each cantonal pharmacy association** were listed, with no interventions towards communication mentioned.
- ✓ The next step of the study is the **development of targeted interventions** to support the implementation of the pharmacists prescribing service in community pharmacy in French-speaking Switzerland.

Thank you very much
Merci beaucoup



Barriers and facilitators for the implementation of a pharmacist prescribing service in Switzerland

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Background

Expanding pharmacists' responsibilities is one of the measures adopted in Switzerland and other countries to face the shortage of general medical practitioners (GPs) and health care system rising costs. In 2019, the Swiss Therapeutic Products Act was revised to allow pharmacist prescribing (medication supply on the pharmacists' own responsibility without medical prescription). The pharmacists prescribing service is one of the new roles for community pharmacists in pharmaceutical care, however its implementation needs to be supported. As first step, factors (facilitators and barriers), that influence this implementation, need to be understood.

Purposes

1 To identify the barriers and facilitators related to the implementation for the pharmacist prescribing service in community pharmacies.

2 To summarize the interventions developed by the cantonal community pharmacists associations in the French-speaking part of Switzerland to support implementation.

Method

Semi-structured interviews with community pharmacists who had been practicing ≥ 1 year in a pharmacy in the French-speaking Switzerland. The interview guide was developed using the Consolidated Framework of Implementation Research (CFIR)¹⁸ and piloted. Data was recorded and transcribed, thematic analysis using the CFIR classification was undertaken and intercoder reliability was assured.

A five-item ad-hoc questionnaire developed by a group of academic pharmacists with expertise in the service, was submitted to each board of the six cantonal pharmacy associations: Vaud, Fribourg, Jura, Valais, Geneva and Neuchâtel, by email.

Results

1 Ten community pharmacists were interviewed (last interview without new codes found). 50% of respondents were women and 80% were pharmacy owners. Personal prescription of medication throughout the service the previous 6 months was low or 0-20 (30%), medium or 21-50 (30%) and high or >50 (40%). **Figure 1** shows the main barriers and facilitators identified, categorized according to their CFIR domain.

2 The questionnaire was answered by the board of five cantonal associations, who showed different interventions for the implementation related to training and documentation. However, none of them had developed interventions towards politicians nor communication strategies with patients and/or GPs.

Fig. 1. Main barriers and facilitators identified, categorized according to their CFIR domain

Conclusion

The factors influencing the implementation of pharmacists prescribing in the French-speaking part of Switzerland were described, highlighting the most frequently mentioned. In addition, the interventions of each cantonal pharmacy association for the implementation of the service into daily practice was listed. **The study is a first step to support the implementation of the pharmacists prescribing service in community pharmacy in French-speaking Switzerland as it will allow the identification of targeted interventions to be developed.**

Keywords
Community pharmacist, Pharmaceutical services, Prescription, Implementation Science

References
1. Boudreau, J., Auin, D., Guay, M., Guay, M., Boudreau, M., Guay, M. Facilitating implementation of health quality research findings into practice: a consolidated framework for allowing implementation science. Implementation Science. 2020;15(1):1.

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