

Providing Medicines Information Skills Training to Hospital Clinical Pharmacists

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Focal Points:

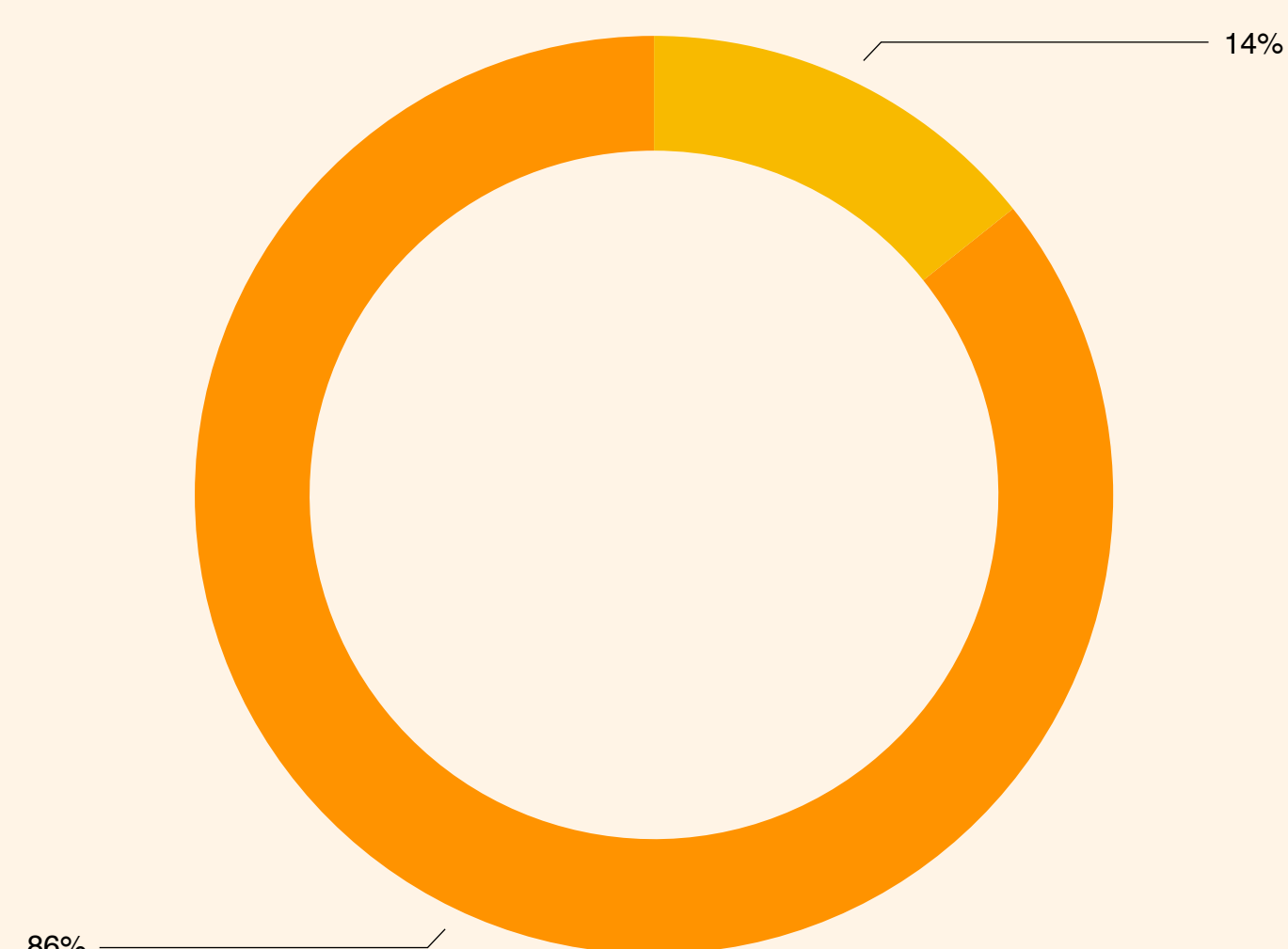
- Using a questionnaire to gather information from clinical pharmacists on their previous MI training and current training needs
- Create and deliver package to assist clinical pharmacists in their day to day work and when on-call and for new starters
- Gather feedback from training session
- Adapt package based on feedback and embed into annual clinical training sessions within department

Introduction: There have been numerous requests from clinical pharmacists to provide an update on MI resources. Clinical pharmacists wanted to enhance their skills when looking for information as part of their ward work, directorate work and when on call. It was also apparent that pharmacists joining the department have a variety of previous experience in medicines information. In developing training for the clinical pharmacists it became important to also include a rolling programme of updates so that the opportunity to include new starters was always there.

The questionnaire: A questionnaire was distributed to all pharmacists in the department. The aim of the questionnaire was to gather information about training needs in order to put together a useful training package. All respondents had received MI training at some stage in their career (ranging from 0-3 years ago to 10+ year ago). Previous training included pre-registration rotation, rotation as a qualified pharmacist, 2 hours 1-1 session and basic introduction to MI pre-internet. All pharmacists agreed an update once a year would be beneficial.

How would you rate your MI skills?

- I struggle to find the information I need ● Adequate to do my job



I would like more help with the following: (In order of priority)

- 1 • Which resources to use first to save time
• EMBASE and MEDLINE searching
- 2 • Knowing which resources are credible
- 3 • Knowing which resources are in our MI department
• Using the SPS website
• Search strategies

Skills training: We put together a training package which included common areas for clinical pharmacists to be asked for information and a hyperlinked document for use on call when pharmacists may be asked questions about less familiar clinical areas.

The training was delivered face to face to a group of 8 using Power Point slides. Each slide was given a specific topic e.g. drug interactions and then a breakdown of suggested resources were listed. Given the interest expressed in using the SPS website screen shots relevant to the topic were included and the SPS website was accessed live during the session. All resources listed in the training are approved UKMI resources and easily accessible by clinical pharmacists on wards and whilst on-call. It was decided to run EMBASE and MEDLINE training separately.

Topics covered:

- Paediatrics
- Renal impairment
- Interactions
- Side effects
- Dose and administration
- Herbal remedies
- Syringe drivers
- Compliance aids
- Fridge database

Feedback: Feedback was gathered from pharmacists who attended the sessions.

- 100% of respondents strongly agreed that the session was the right length; information covered was relevant to my job; there was the right amount of information on each slide; the resources outlined were accessible
- 75% of respondents agreed and 25% of respondents strongly agreed that they had a better understanding of how to use the SPS website.

Very informative session with useful resources to help with difficult queries and on-call.

The session has been useful for on-calls.

This was a good session which refreshed my knowledge of the available resources.

A programme of running the training is now underway with the next session booked for September when the new cohort of pharmacists will have joined the Trust. In order to improve the session we will be asking pharmacists to bring specific questions they have about the SPS website. Given the interest in EMBASE and MEDLINE training a session will be run over a couple of hours with computer access for all participants. Library facilities locally allow for group sessions. The literature searching training is still to be written but will be based on training received on the national training course run by UKMI.