

Introduction

The Knowledge Network (TKN) is the national knowledge management platform for health and social care in Scotland. It is developed and maintained by the Knowledge Services group at NHS Education for Scotland (NES)¹. Access is free to healthcare professionals in NHS Scotland via Open Athens or IP recognition for some resources. Historically, medicines information (MI) resources were purchased by MI departments in each of the 14 health boards across Scotland. The introduction of a national subscription for some of the commonly used resources has encouraged non-MI pharmacists & other healthcare professionals to use these resources and answer simple enquiries themselves. The challenge is to ensure that staff are aware of what resources are available via TKN and how they can access them.

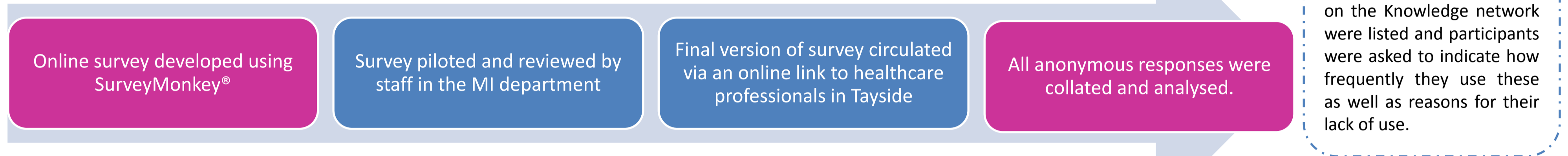
The MI resources which are available on TKN are: The BNF/BNFC, The Handbook of Drug Administration Via Enteral Feeding Tubes, Stockley's Drug Interactions, Stockley's Interactions Checker, Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference, Micromedex, Dietary Supplements, Herbal Medicines, Kucer's the Use of Antibiotics, Renal Drug Database, Drugs During Pregnancy and Lactation, Drugs in Pregnancy and Lactation, and the Palliative Care Formulary. BMJ Best Practice and Dynamed Plus are also available as point of care resources.

Aim

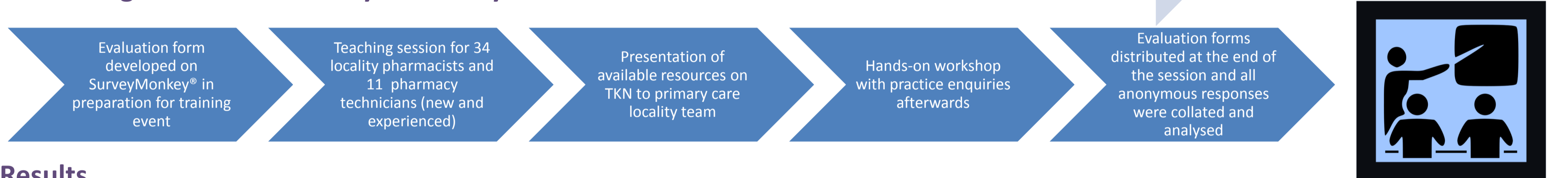
The aim of this survey was to determine current staff awareness and use of MI resources and point of care resources on The Knowledge Network and evaluate the potential benefit of an MI training session on resources via TKN to a locality pharmacy team.

Method

Assessment of Current Use and Awareness of TKN

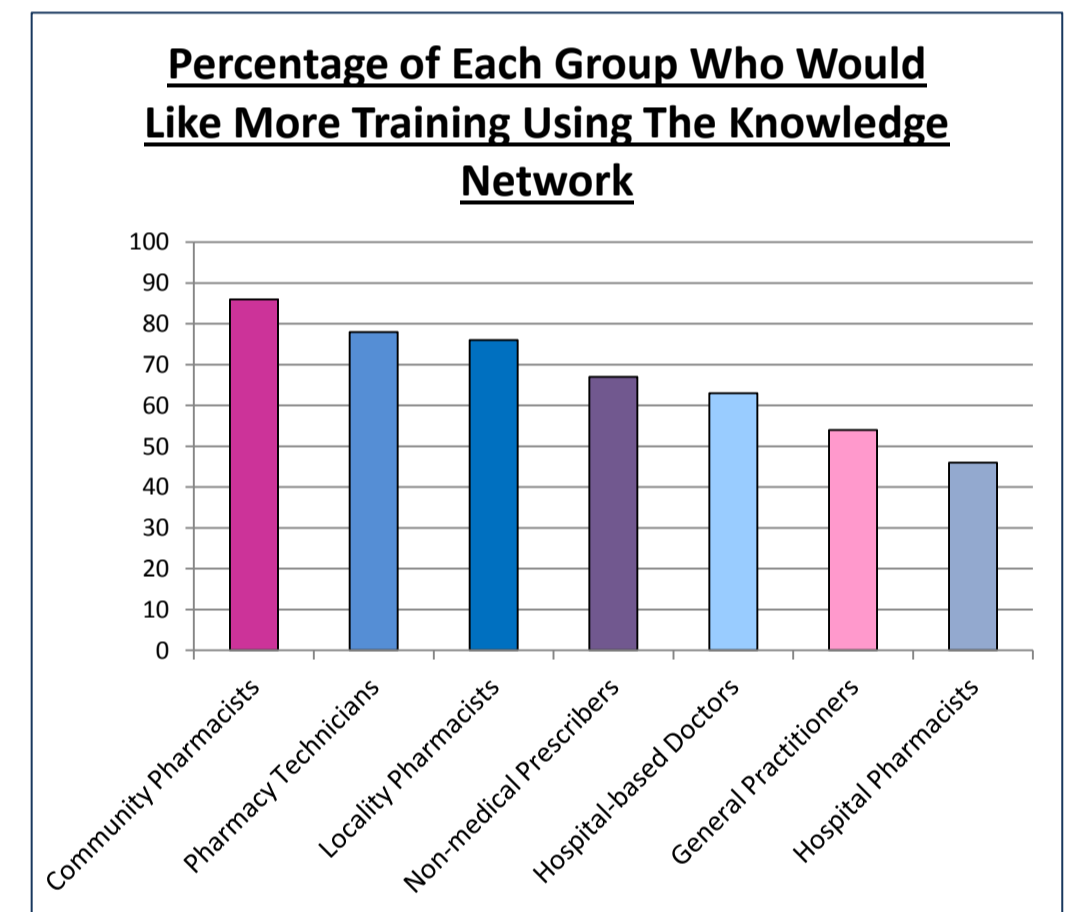
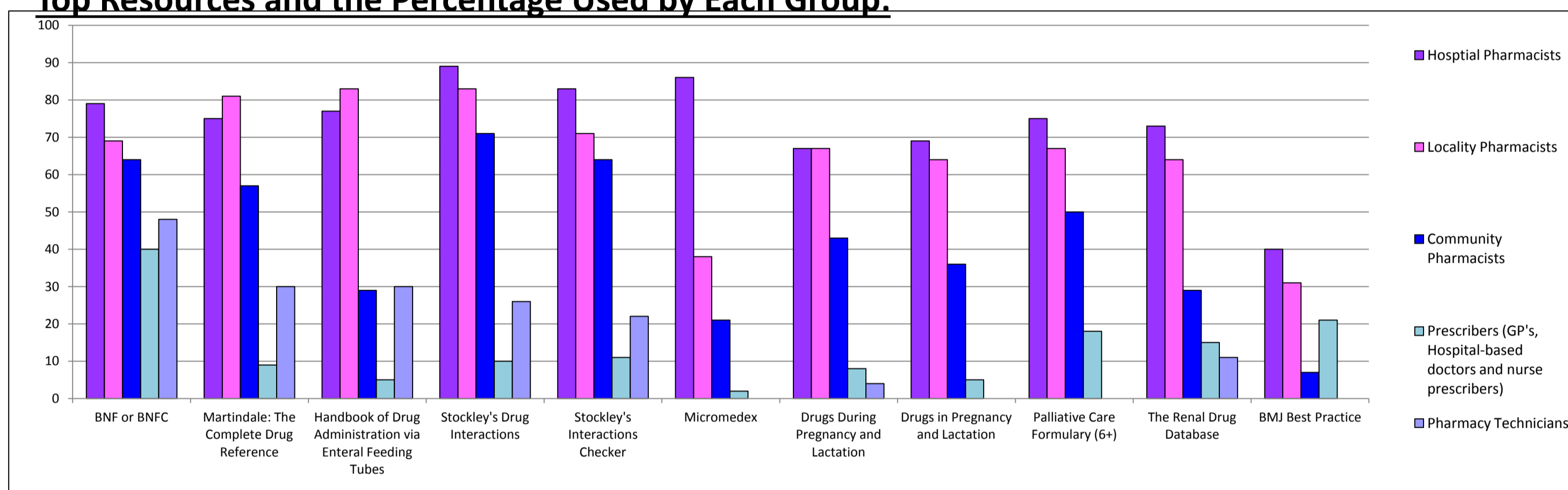


MI Training Session for Locality Pharmacy Team



Results

Top Resources and the Percentage Used by Each Group:

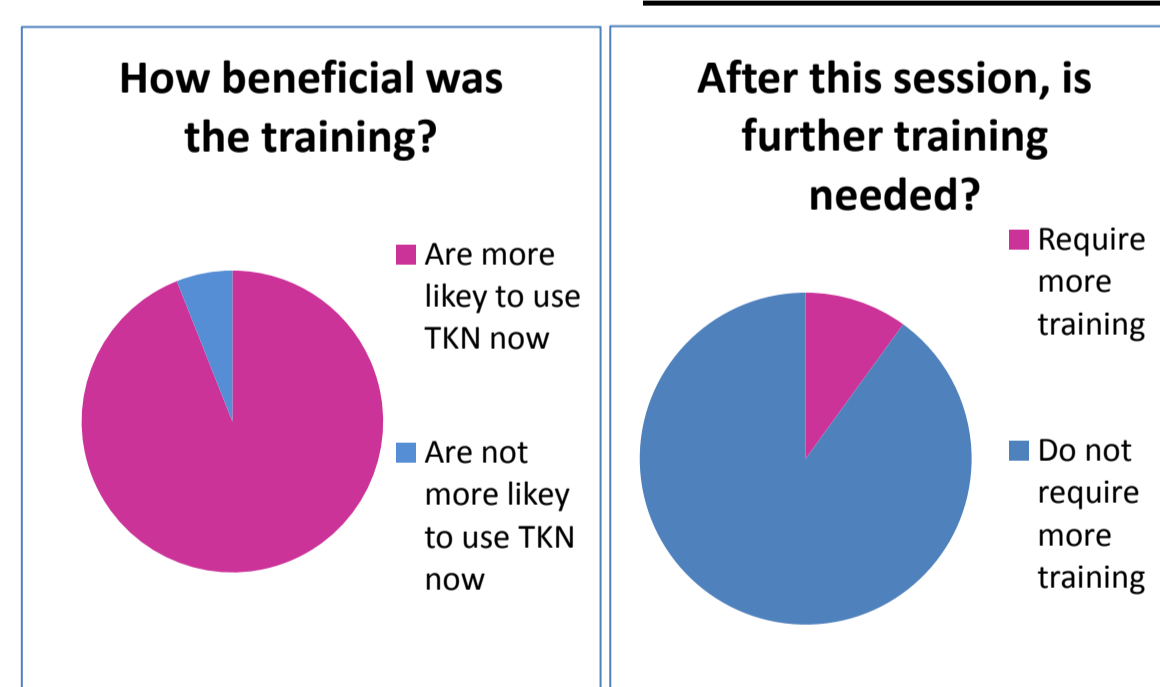


TKN Resources Response Breakdown:
52 Hospital Pharmacists 32 Hospital-based Doctors
14 Community Pharmacists 42 Locality Pharmacists
27 Pharmacy Technicians 54 Nurse Prescribers
26 General Practitioners

Results from Locality Training Session

Recurrent reasons for lack of use of TKN:

- Unaware that a resource was available on TKN.
- Unable to access a resource.
- Resource not needed in field of practice.
- Other:
 - E.g. Cannot remember Open Athens password.
 - E.g. Prefer the app or paper version of BNF/BNFC.
 - E.g. Some resources are not the latest version.



Feedback:

- "Very good session, feel it should be repeated regularly for new staff"
- "Practical session good to back up presentation"
- "Excellent presentation"
- "Needed more time to practice using the resources"

Training Session Response Breakdown:
• 24 Locality pharmacists
• 11 Pharmacy technicians

Discussion

Hospital pharmacists used the majority of MI resources on TKN, with MI pharmacists using all the resources regularly. The top resources used by pharmacists in all sectors included the BNF or BNFC, Stockley's Drug Interactions, Stockley's Interactions Checker and Martindale. Additional resources widely used by both hospital and locality pharmacists were The Handbook of Drug Administration via Enteral Feeding Tubes, both pregnancy textbooks, the Palliative Care Formulary and the Renal Drug Database. In addition, hospital pharmacists also used Micromedex. Pharmacy technicians mainly accessed the BNF or BNFC, The Handbook of Drug Administration via Enteral Feeding Tubes and Martindale. The main resources used by prescribers included the BNF or BNFC, BMJ Best Practice, with some use of the Palliative Care Formulary, the Renal Drug Handbook and Stockley's Drug Interactions. Certain resources such as Kucer's The Use of Antibiotics were not frequently used as it is mainly a specialist resource.

There appeared to be a lack of awareness on how to access TKN by some healthcare professionals. Only 36% of community pharmacists stated that they had an Open Athens account. 63% of hospital-based doctors, 58% of GPs and 50% of nurse prescribers had an Open Athens account. Hospital & locality pharmacists had a greater awareness of how to access TKN. Of those surveyed, hospital pharmacists appeared most confident in their ability to use TKN and this may be due to the fact that in Tayside, an MI placement is on the junior pharmacist rotation. Despite this, 46% still indicated that they would like more training on this resource. More than half of all other groups surveyed also require more training. An e-learning session was the preferred method of training for most participants however there was also a very positive response from the locality training session where 94% of participants stated that they were more likely to use TKN after this. There were several requests for the inclusion of additional resources on TKN including links to national guidelines and a national subscription to NEWT guidelines.

To conclude, the resources available on TKN are widely used by a range of Healthcare professionals. Further advertising is required as a number of participants were unaware of these resources and how to access them. Professionals would also like more training in the form of e-learning or as a presentation and hands-on workshop. The results of this research will be shared locally and with NES Knowledge Services and the Association of Scottish MI Practitioners. After this research, the next steps include development of a training package and discussion with the MI network to consider additional useful resources.

References

- The Knowledge Network. *About the Knowledge Network* [homepage on the Internet]. UK: NHS Education for Scotland [cited 2019 Jan 07]. Available from: <http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/home/help-and-training/about-the-knowledge-network.aspx>

Acknowledgements

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