

# How do pre-registration pharmacists value a MI placement in a regional centre?

## Introduction

The RDTC provides medicines information (MI) training for pre-registration pharmacists based in secondary care and community pharmacy. Previously at the RDTC this was a three week placement. This was reduced to one week due to increased rotational experiences at their host organisation and the RDTCs capacity to accommodate a growing number of requests.

The RDTC provides several services in addition to standard medicines information including Prescribing Support, the UK Teratology Information Service, National Poisons Information Service and the Yellow Card Centre Northern & Yorkshire. Thus the RDTC provides education and training for many different stakeholders. This includes the safe and cost-effective use of medicines, management of poisoning, prevention of adverse drug reactions and the appropriate use of medicines during pregnancy. This provides the pre-registration pharmacists with an opportunity to also spend time with the other services in the RDTC. Training is provided by pharmacists and medicines information scientists

The RDTC developed a MI training workbook in response to the reduction in the length of placement which has been in use for the past three years. It includes UKMi recommended training resources, MiCAL and the Medicines Learning Portal. (1)

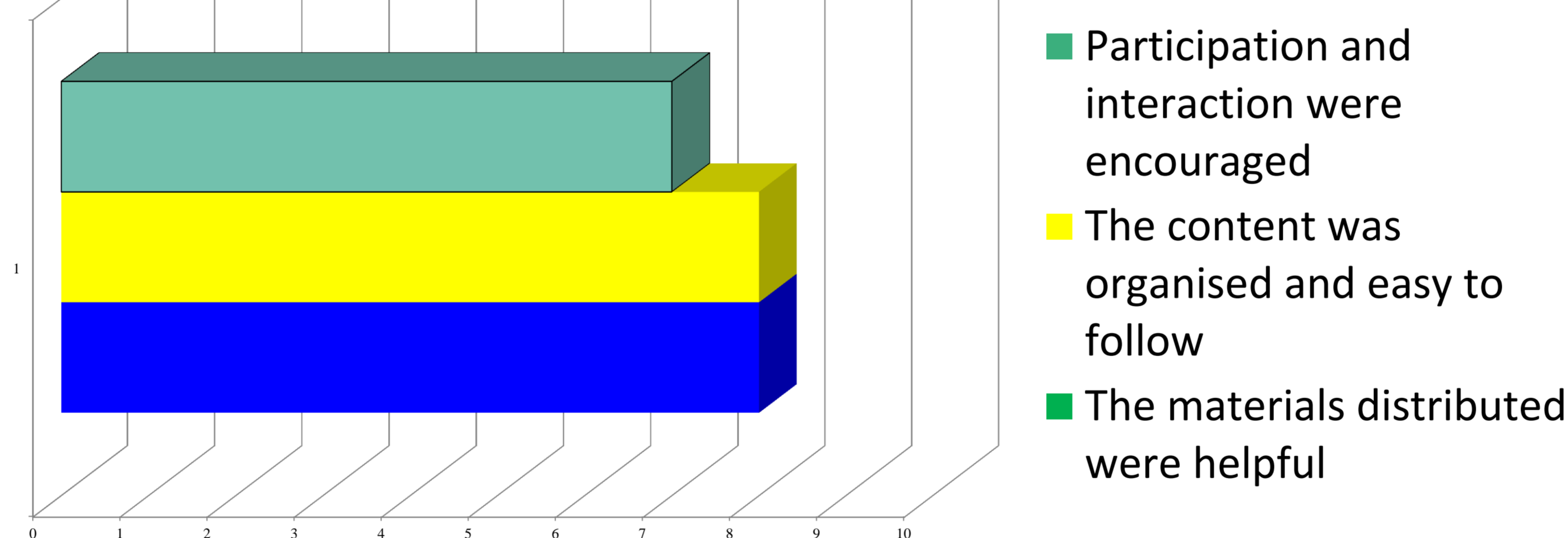
## Methods

All pre-registration pharmacists were asked to complete a ten question survey monkey questionnaire once they had returned to their host organisation. Pre-registration pharmacists had previously completed paper based evaluation forms on the last day of the placement. Anonymous electronic feedback was preferred to avoid experimenter bias.

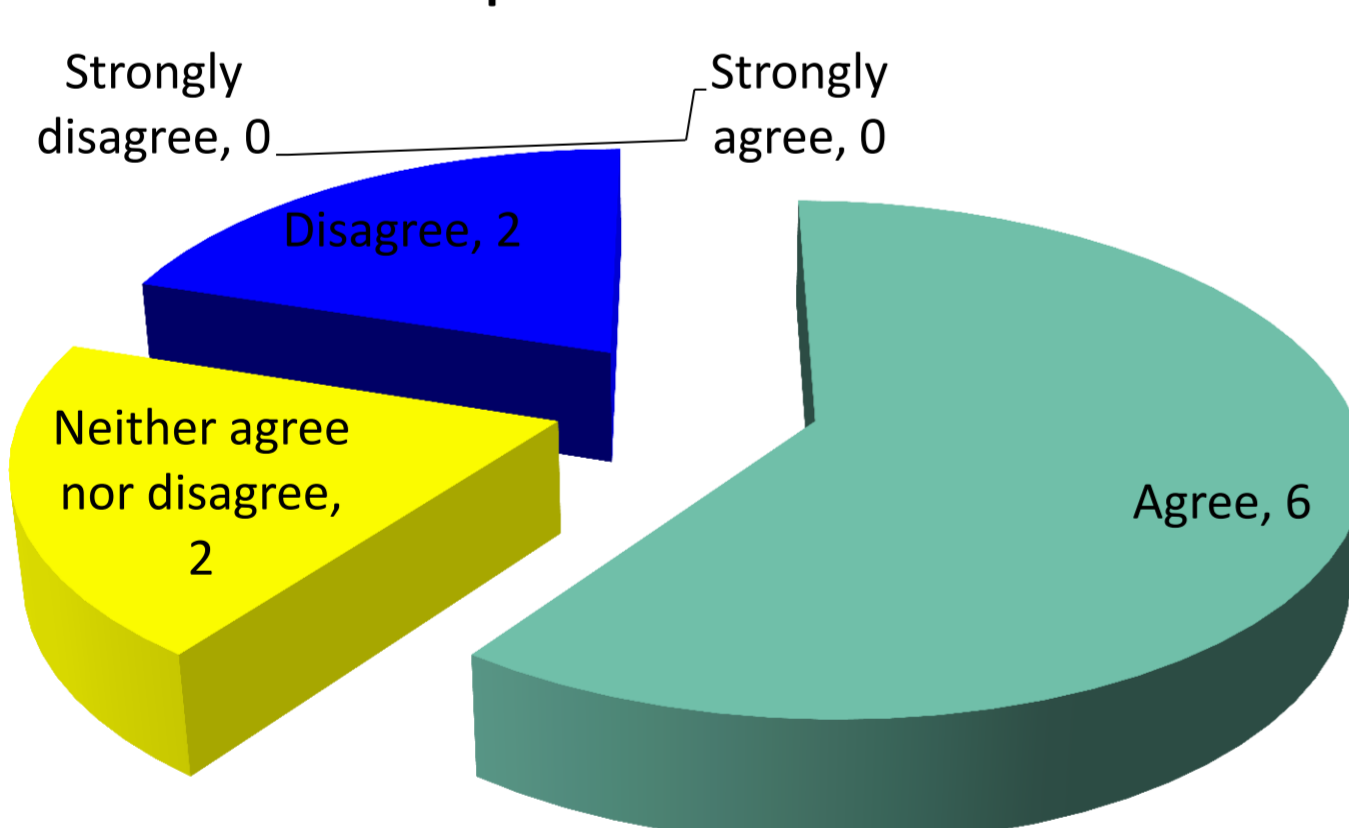
## Results

- Pre-registration pharmacists believed skills obtained during this placement would make them a better pharmacist once qualified.
- The majority of pre-registration pharmacists believed that they would be better prepared to pass the registration examination as a result of completing this placement.
- The majority of pre-registration pharmacists are either likely or very likely to recommend this placement to future pre-registration pharmacists.
- Pre-registration pharmacists believed the topics were relevant to their training needs and the content was organised and easy to follow. However participation and interaction could be increased.

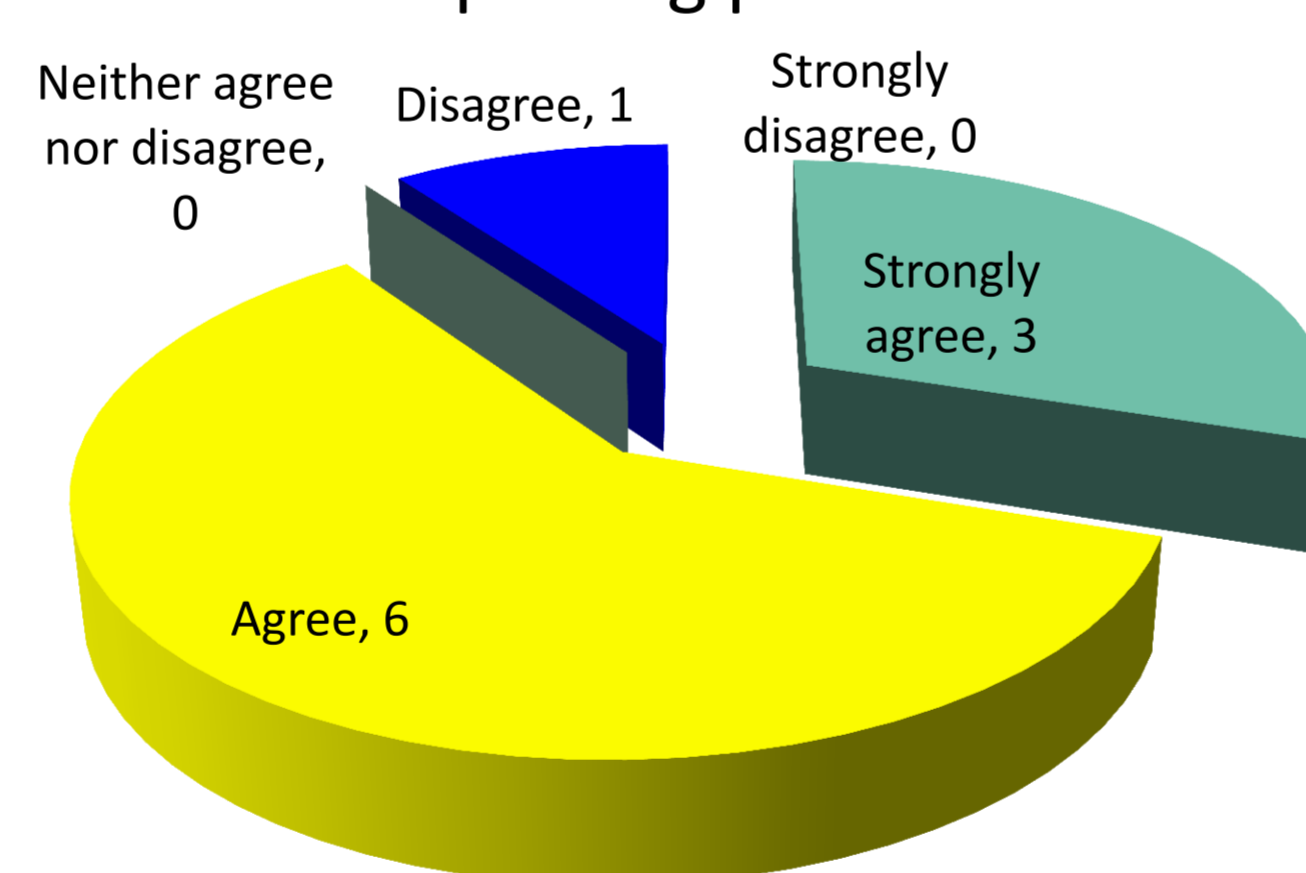
Did the RDTC programme, including workbook meet the pre-reg pharmacists needs? (0 = Strongly disagree, 10 = Strongly agree)



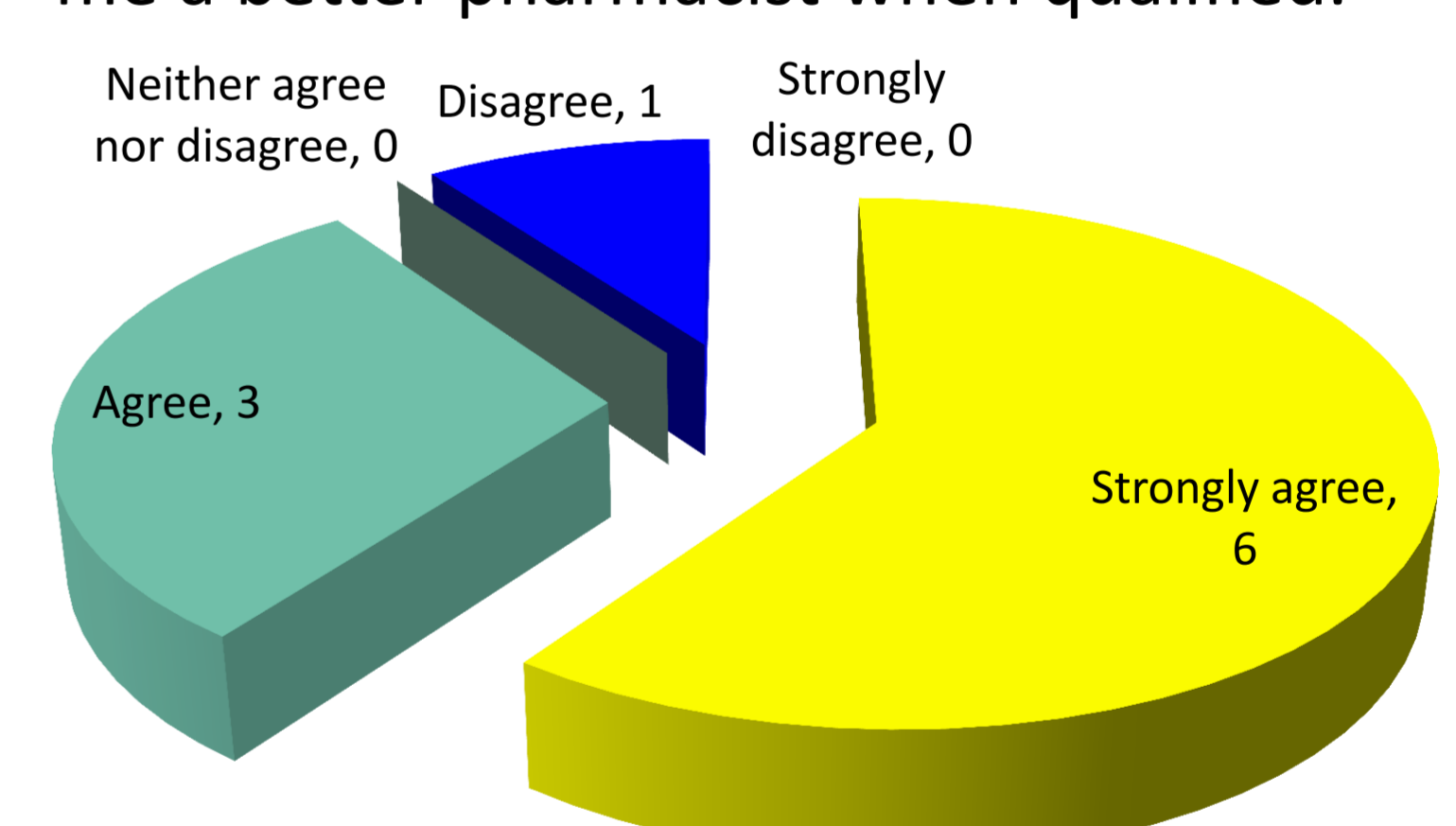
Do you feel you will be better prepared to pass the pre-reg exam as a result of completing this placement?



Are you likely to recommend this placement to future pre-reg pharmacists?



Skills obtained during this placement will make me a better pharmacist when qualified.



## Practice Development Points

- Medicines Information skills are viewed as a vital part of the development and training of pharmacists no matter what sector of pharmacy they are working in.
- Pre-registration pharmacists should have access to medicines information training as part of their rotational experiences.
- The experience has been altered to include increased regular planned and ad hoc interaction with RDTC staff and a clear message that questions are welcome irrespective of how quiet the office is.
- Team based learning should be encouraged. (2) In the future pre-registration pharmacists should be able to attend in pairs. It is hoped that participation and interaction will be increased as a result.

## Trainee Feedback

'Well established and clear programme. Never any dead time, always have lots of things planned to do. No tasks for the sake of tasks, all are pertinent to the placement and understanding of the job role.'

'Getting to meet with members of the teratology, prescribing and poisons teams to find out more about what they do. Having access to lots of different resources and completing scenarios where I had to think about which resources I'd use to find the answer - will be relevant to on call queries next year.'

'The whole department was very welcoming and I really enjoyed my time there. I feel this has better prepared myself for qualifying and has given me confidence for dealing with queries in community also! I feel this would greatly benefit those doing community pre-reg pharmacists as well as those currently in hospital!'