

Models of care and the role of clinical pharmacists in UK primary care for older people: A scoping review

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Background

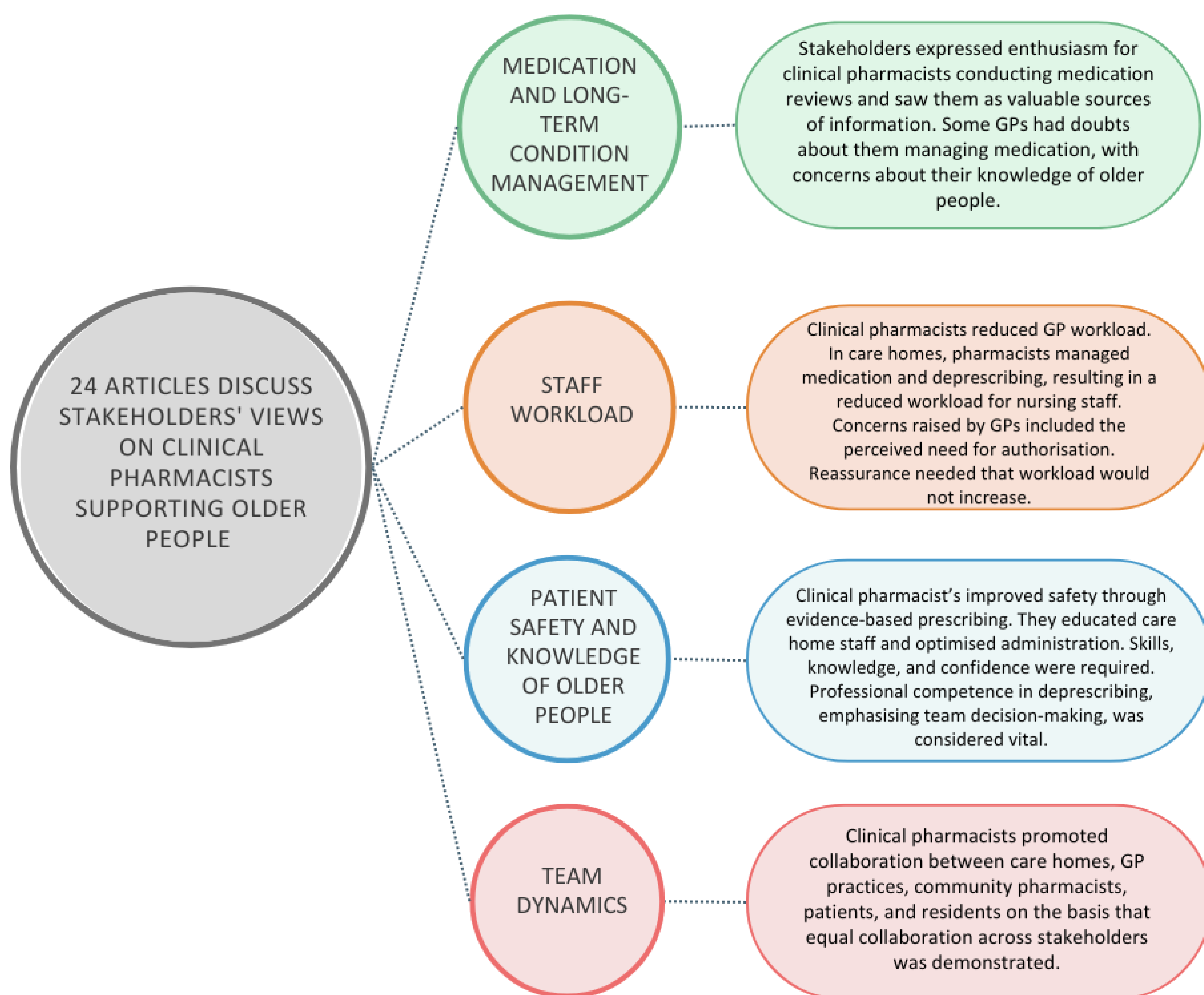
- The global population is aging, with more individuals living with multiple long-term conditions (LTCs) like dementia, posing challenges for societal, economic, and healthcare systems.
- Primary care services, vital to the UK's NHS, face increasing pressure to meet patient needs effectively.
- Clinical pharmacists play a crucial role in primary care teams, with expanding clinical responsibilities including prescribing and deprescribing medication.
- However, there's a lack of specific evidence on the role of clinical pharmacists in supporting older adults or people with dementia in the community.
- This scoping review aimed to fill this gap by providing a comprehensive overview of current research in this area.

Methods

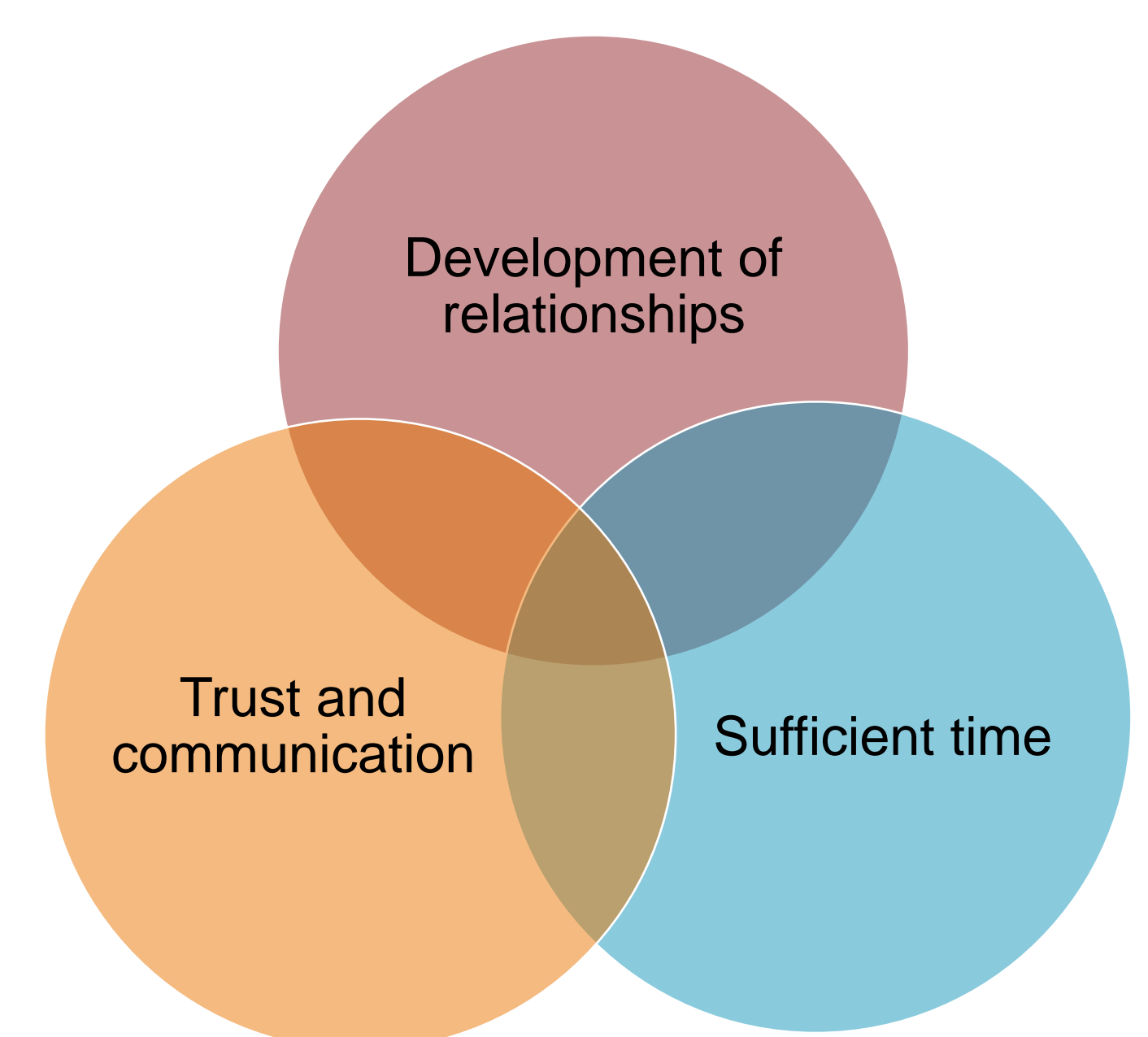
This review followed the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) methodology and the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis extension for scoping reviews (PRISMA-ScR). Medline, Scopus, EMBASE, Web of Science, PsycINFO, and Cochrane were searched from 1 January 2015 to 30 August 2022 and Grey literature was searched using Google in September 2023.

Inclusion Criteria

- Older people (65 and over)
- Clinical pharmacist role
- Experiences of clinical pharmacy services from key stakeholders (e.g. GPs, carers, care home residents)
- Primary care
- UK



Articles also highlighted certain prerequisites for clinical pharmacists to effectively support patients and collaborate seamlessly with their professional colleagues:



Implications for policy and practice and future research

There is evidence that clinical pharmacists play an important role in primary care teams that extends beyond direct patient care and influences the broader healthcare landscape.

We outlined key components for the implementation of an effective service to take place, which provides valuable insights for policy development within the context of NHS provision and may be transferable to international policy and practice.

Future research should explore experiences of individuals with dementia and their family members or carers to shape policies that support inclusive pharmacist services for all populations.

Conclusions

There is evidence that clinical pharmacists play an important role in primary care teams that extends beyond direct patient care and influences the broader healthcare landscape. We outlined key components for the implementation of an effective service to take place, which provides valuable insights for policy development within the context of NHS provision and may be transferable to international policy and practice.

References:

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