

Knowledge and application of green practices within community pharmacy

Michela Baldacchino, Nicolette Sammut Bartolo, Lilian M Azzopardi

Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Malta, Msida, Malta

email: michela.j.baldacchino.17@um.edu.mt

INTRODUCTION

The leaching of active pharmaceutical ingredients within the environment can be reduced if greener practices are adopted throughout the lifecycle of pharmaceutical products.¹ Being at the forefront of healthcare systems, pharmacists and the pharmaceutical workforce have an important role in reducing the impact of pharmaceutical related activities.

AIMS

To evaluate the perception of pharmacists and the pharmaceutical workforce in Maltese community pharmacies, towards green practices.

METHOD

A self-administered questionnaire, entitled 'Green Practices in Community Pharmacy' was developed to evaluate the perception of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and assistants working in community pharmacies

The questionnaire was validated for face and content validity by a panel of 3 academic pharmacists, 2 community pharmacists and 2 pharmacy technicians

Participants deemed eligible for the study were required to work within Maltese community pharmacies for at least 3 hours a week

Dissemination of the questionnaire was conducted online through social media using Google forms and in different pharmacies around Malta using a QR code

RESULTS

- The eligible sample size consisted of 105 participants, of which 93 (88.6%) were community pharmacists, 8 (7.6%) pharmacy assistants and 4 (3.8%) pharmacy technicians
- Fifty-five (52.4%) respondents heard of the term green pharmacy practice
- Twenty-two (21%) out of the 55 participants were aged between 21 to 30 years and heard the term from the internet (n=18) and/or university (n=22)
- Green pharmacy practices implemented in community pharmacies included stock rotation when receiving products (n=76, 72.4%) and recycling (n=58, 55.2%) (Figure 1).

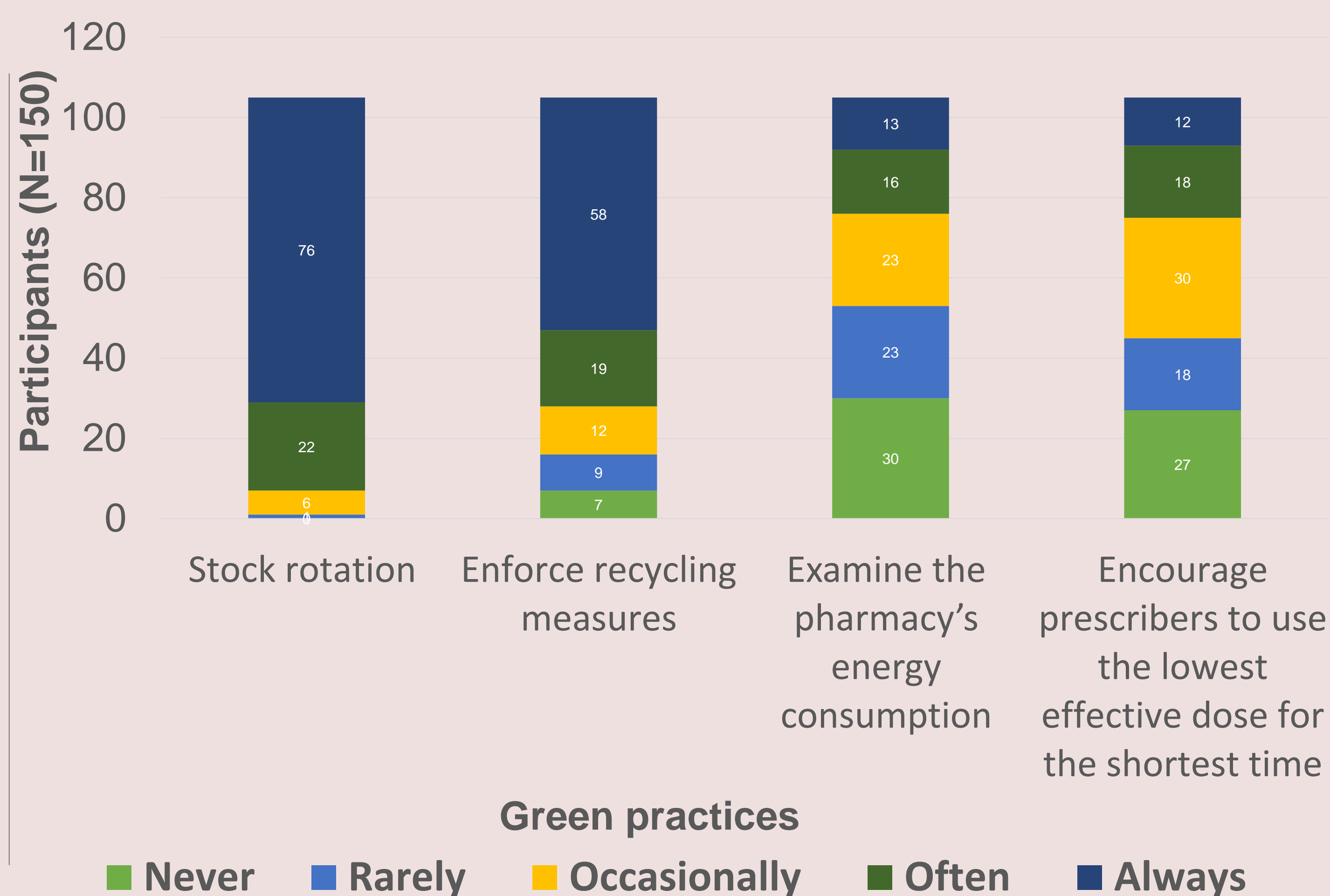


Figure 1: Green pharmacy practices implemented in Maltese community pharmacies

CONCLUSION

The majority of participants learned about green practices at university. Pharmacy schools have an important role in creating awareness about green pharmacy practices amongst the future workforce to promote the implementation of such practices in settings such as the community pharmacy. Green practices are already being implemented within the community pharmacy setting, however further measures such as monitoring energy consumption and educating patients and other healthcare professionals can be implemented.

REFERENCES

- Cavicchi C and Vagoni E. Sustainable Business Models in Hybrids: A Conceptual Framework for Community Pharmacies' Business Owners. Sustainability. 2020;12(19):1-18. 10.3390/su12198125