

The Pharmacotherapy team

A novel multidisciplinary intervention to reduce inappropriate in-hospital prescribing

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Challenge



- 5 – 7% of all hospital admissions appear to be medication-related [1,2].
 - 66% preventable



- \$42 billion each year



- 2013: 23,000 preventable hospital admissions (> 65 years) each year.



What has been done so far?



The number of preventable hospital admissions is not declining...



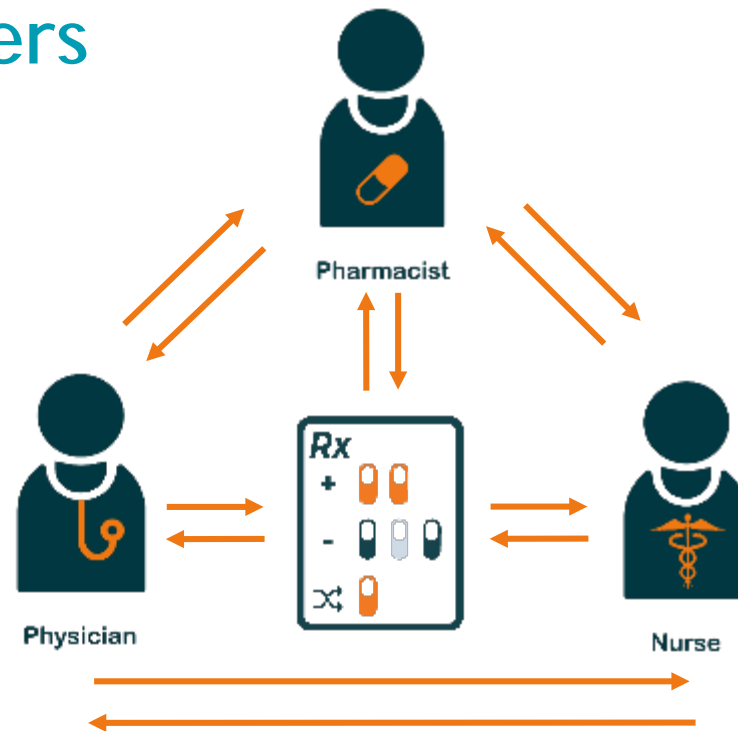
What is inappropriate prescribing or a prescribing error?

“(...) a result of a prescribing decision or prescription writing process and if there is an unintentional significant (1) reduction in the probability of treatment being effective or (2) increase in the risk of harm when compared with generally accepted practice”.



Analysis of inappropriate prescribing

- Multiple stakeholders





What did we do?



Hospital pharmacist



Internist



Pharmacist

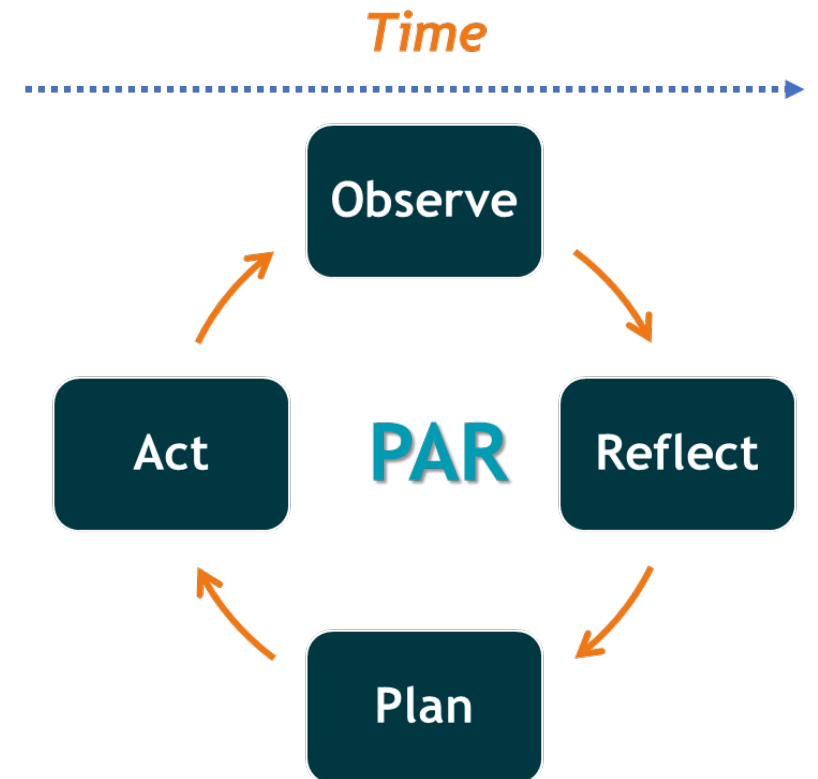


Junior doctor

Clinical pharmacologist i.t.



- Participatory Action Research





How did we do it?

Methods of the Pharmacotherapy team





What did we find?

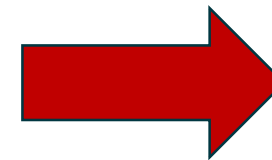
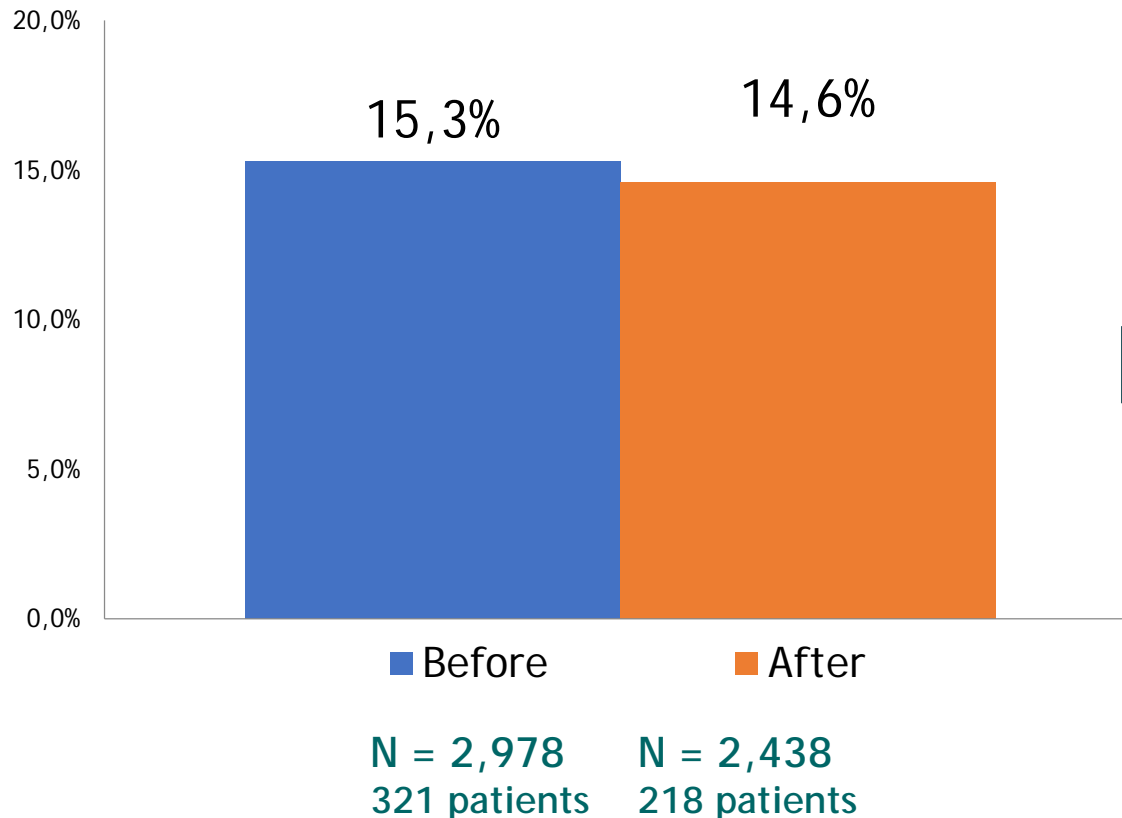
Results of the root cause analyses

- 12 out of 12 study wards: difficulties concerning medication reconciliation.
- 11 out of 12 study wards: insufficient pharmacotherapy knowledge → unable to properly analyze appropriateness.
- 10 out of 12 study wards: difficulties concerning protocols & guidelines.



What did we find?

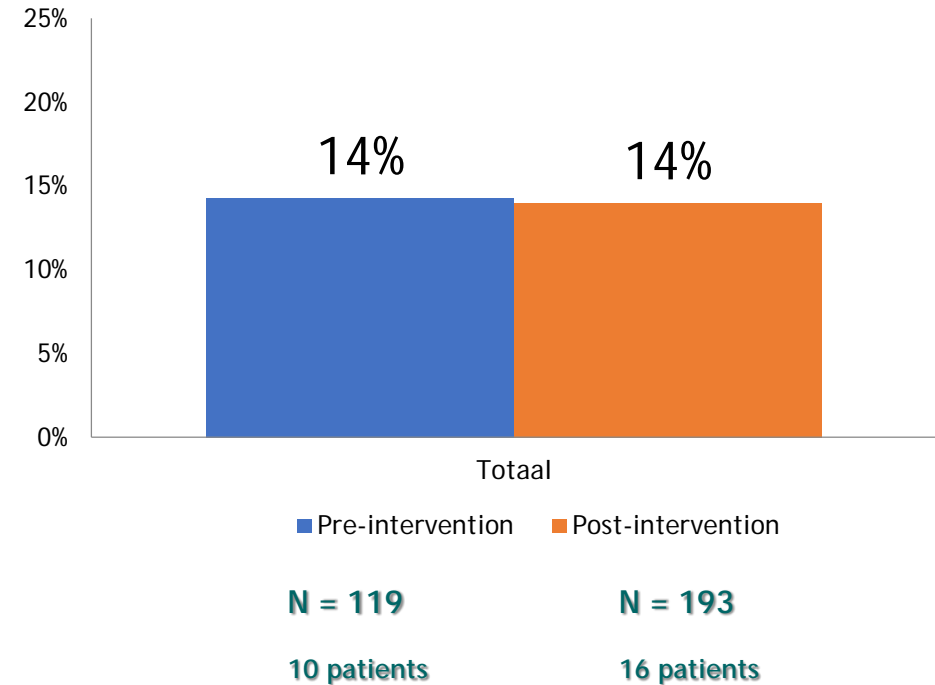
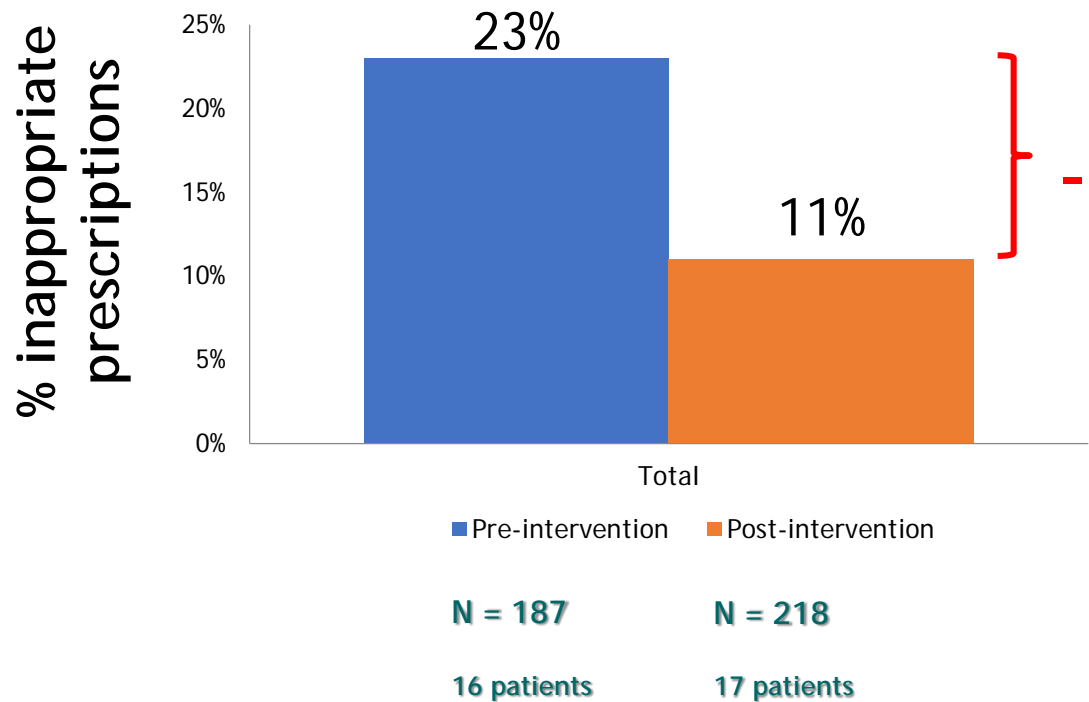
Results of the before & after study



No significant overall reduction in inappropriate prescriptions



Differences between study wards





What did we learn?

Conclusions of the Pharmacotherapy team

- No overall reduction in inappropriate prescriptions - The problem is not solved... Yet.
 - *Why did some wards perform better than others?"*

Intrinsic motivation and dedication are critical success factors for PAR.

- *"What can we do more to improve prescribing?"*

Reducing inappropriate prescribing is not a quick fix but instead needs structural attention and awareness.



"Attention makes everything better"



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