



The Pharmacotherapy team: a new intervention strategy to improve rational prescribing and reduce prescribing errors in a hospital setting

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Introduction

Prescribing errors account for a substantial proportion of medication errors, resulting in patient harm and high costs.¹ Several interventions to reduce prescribing errors by promoting rational prescribing have been introduced in Dutch primary care.² Although these interventions are promising, a thorough and structural approach to promote rational prescribing in a hospital setting is still lacking.

Aim

To develop a new intervention strategy to improve rational prescribing and reduce prescribing errors in a hospital setting.

Methods

Because of the complexity of the prescribing process, interventions to improve rational prescribing are more likely to be effective if they include a multidisciplinary, multifaceted and tailor-made strategy.³

(1) Multidisciplinary:

- Pharmacotherapy team (figure 1)

(2) Multifaceted:

- Participatory Action Research (PAR):

- Combining qualitative and quantitative methods
- Participation of local caregivers
- Tailor-made interventions

(3) Ward specific strategy (figure 2)

Conclusion

A Pharmacotherapy team with active participation of local caregivers based on PAR is a new and unique strategy to thoroughly investigate the complex prescribing process. With this tailored approach, we hope to develop effective and sustainable interventions to improve rational prescribing in a hospital setting.

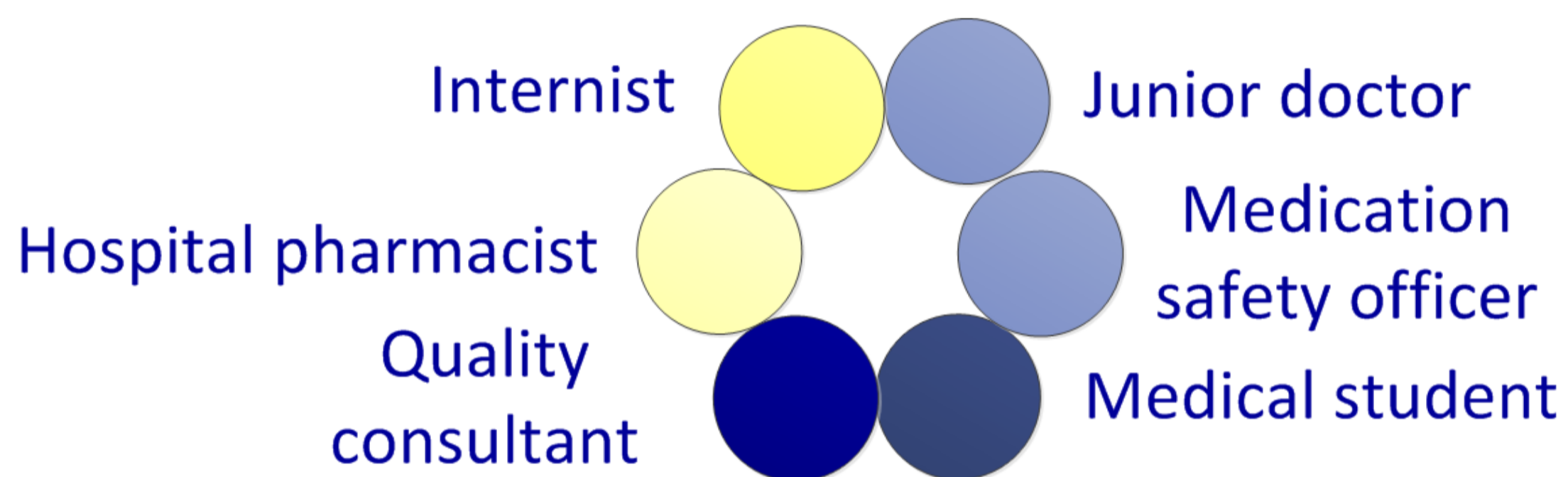
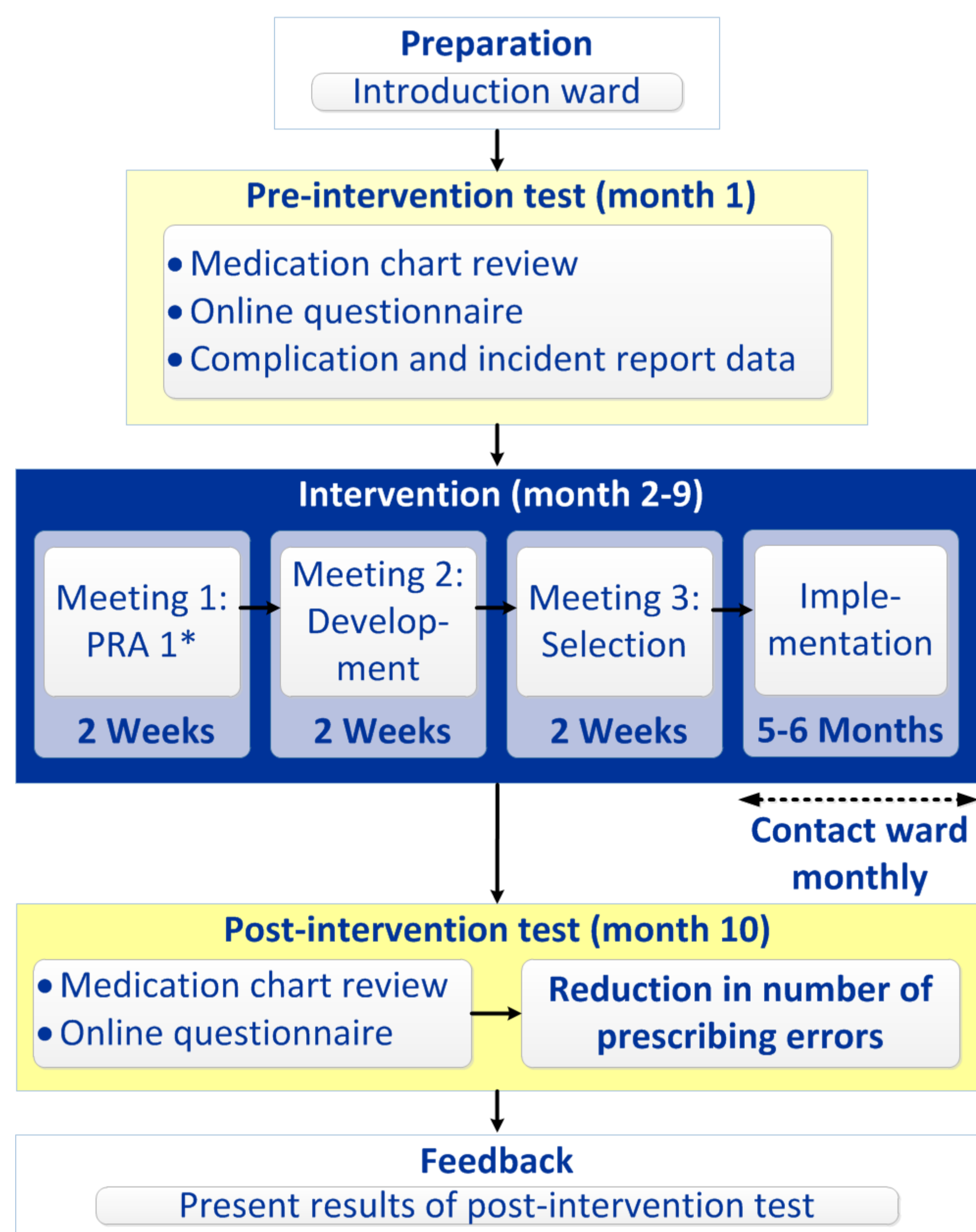


Figure 1: Multidisciplinary Pharmacotherapy team.



*PRA: Prospective Risk Analysis with local caregivers

Figure 2: Ward specific strategy.

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