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Community pharmacist clinical portal enabled access to aspects of patients' primary and secondary care EHR: exploring the general public's views in NHS Tayside



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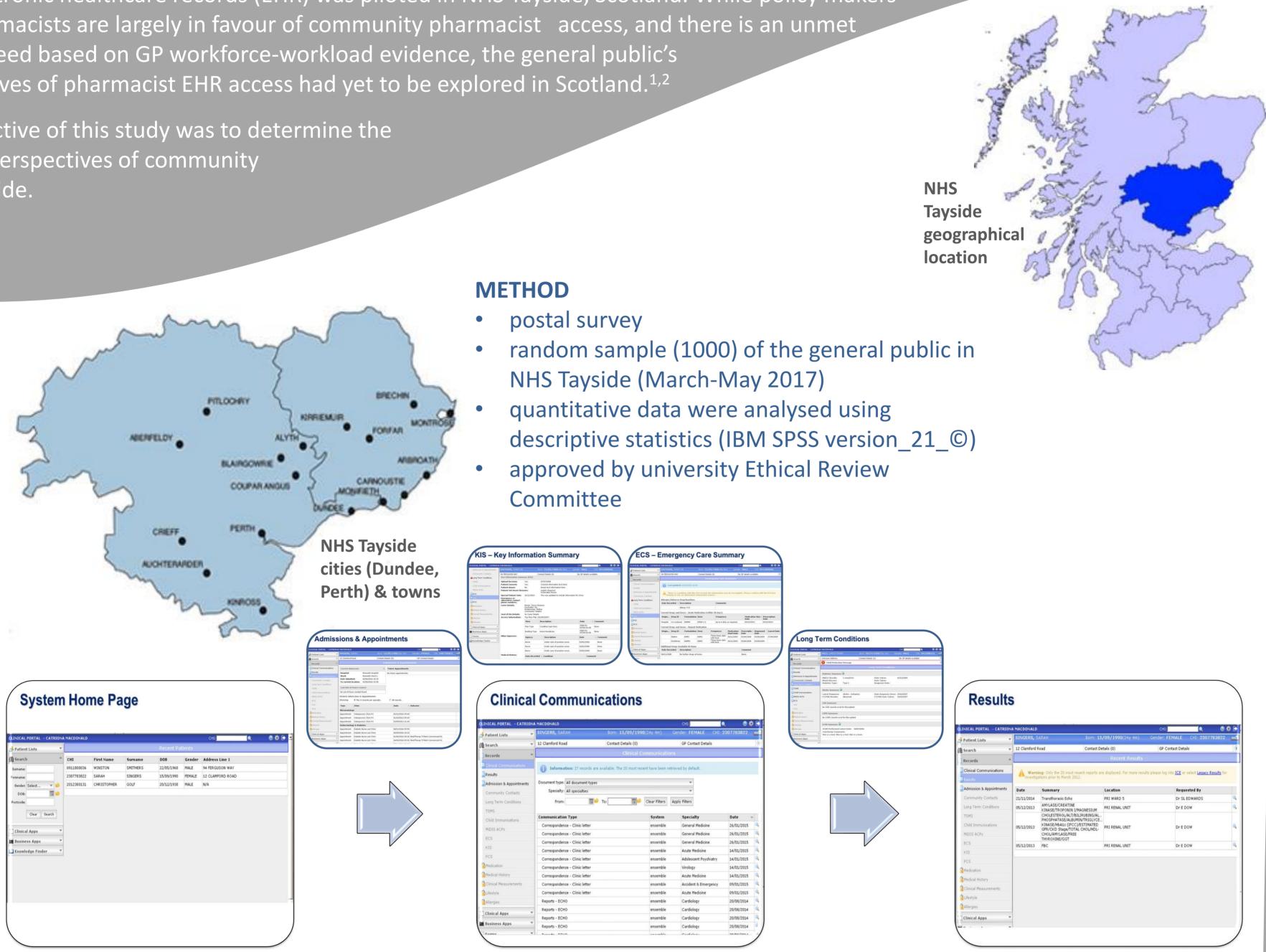
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BACKGROUND

Community pharmacist clinical portal enabled access to aspects of patients' primary and secondary care electronic healthcare records (EHR) was piloted in NHS Tayside, Scotland. While policy makers and pharmacists are largely in favour of community pharmacist access, and there is an unmet service need based on GP workforce-workload evidence, the general public's perspectives of pharmacist EHR access had yet to be explored in Scotland.^{1,2}

The objective of this study was to determine the public's perspectives of community NHS Tayside.



RESULTS

Of 1000 surveys distributed, 205 returned, (27 undeliverable), providing a response rate of 21%. Although some were unsure (23%; n=47/203), most indicated their community pharmacist would be better able to recognise problems with medicines/ healthcare given access to patients' EHR (63%; n=127/203), knew why each medicine was prescribed (74%; n=150/203), and thought that a long-term condition would make access to patient records essential (73%; n=148/203). Few respondents were against/ were non-committal on community pharmacists having read or read-and-write access to EHR. For example, the Emergency Care Summary (ECS) (13%; n=27/201) where, if access were permitted, respondents preferred that consent should not be required on each and every occasion: ECS (73%; n=148/203). Many felt access to patients' EHR would mean the pharmacist was better informed so could provide better, safer care (68%; n=136/200) and that **mistakes were less likely to happen** (71%; n=142/200).

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

- Community pharmacists could contribute more to improving patient care and
- safety if they were better informed through access to aspects of patients' EHR
- Treatment of common clinical conditions in community pharmacy brings
- benefits to patients while reducing pressure on GP appointments
- ✓ Study demonstrates support for community pharmacist clinical portal enabled access to patients' EHR with a preference for a simplified consent process

REFERENCES

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