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Views and Perceptions of Key Stakeholders in Qatar on Pharmacist Prescribing

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Background

- The healthcare system in Qatar is undergoing a lot of changes as outlined in its National Vision 2030 and Health Strategy.
- To achieve its goals, the government is keen on utilizing the skills of highly trained professionals such as pharmacists.
- Studies have shown that pharmacists involved in prescribing let to more safe and cost-effective patient care.

Aim

To explore the views and perceptions of stakeholders on the development and implementation of pharmacist prescribing in Qatar following the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research.

Methods



Figure 1: Study Design

Preliminary Results

Process

"It should go through the whole process starting from.. regulators, experts groups like academic, practitioners, involving people.. approaching the pharmacists, training them... and then... monitoring."

Innovation Characteristics

"Generally speaking is good. I mean we have... another dimension to the profession of pharmacy... it will release the pressure from the physician by delegating...like refill or adjusting the dose based on reading."

Inner Setting

"You need to try to develop a collaborative practice environment where people appreciate and trust... the other healthcare professions... then you will find maybe a natural flow to having.. pharmacist prescribing."

Individual Characteristics

"..for example minimum would be they must have a... masters in clinical pharmacy or PharmD and then also after the masters, postgraduate experience with probably 3-5 years."

Outer Setting

"The process will start with having or to connect with regional partnerships so, as Hamad has already done, they created this partnership with Robert Gordon University also Qatar University."

Figure 2: Main themes emerging

Summary

- Stakeholders held positive views around the potential for pharmacist prescribing in Qatar.
- Pharmacists must be trained and experienced before being allowed to prescribe.
- Involvement of the different health stakeholders is essential for the successful development and implementation of this new role in Qatar.
- The data collected can aid in the development of a framework for pharmacist prescribing in Qatar.