

Danish Network for Community Pharmacy Practice Research and Development

pharmakon

Authors

- Kerly Maire Servilieri Firkløver Pharmacies
- 2 Susanne Bendixen Copenhagen Sønderbro Pharmacy
- 3 Mira El-Souri and Charlotte Verner Rossing Danish College of Pharmacy Practice
- 4 Tina Olesen Linde Vejen and Egtved Pharmacies
- 5 Gitte Christensen Randers Jernbane Pharmacy 6 Carina Lundby – University of Southern Denmark
- 7 Lotte Stig Nørgaard University of Copenhagen

Contact information Kerly Maire Servilieri kerly@apoteket.dk



The purpose of the network is to support research and development in community pharmacies through structured collaboration between researchers and community pharmacies.

Background

Denmark has a long-standing tradition of community pharmacy practice research, and a variety of community pharmacy studies have been conducted at both national and local levels for decades. However, sharing knowledge and providing support can be difficult and time-consuming, and the Danish Network for Community Pharmacy Practice Research and Development was established in 2016 to address this.

Methods

The network includes 90 pharmacy owners and represents 289 of Denmark's 527 community pharmacies (55 %).

It is supported by three academic institutions:

- The University of Copenhagen
- The University of Southern Denmark
- The Danish College of Pharmacy Practice.





Idea Development



Idea Validation

Design Phase



Monthly meetings



Project support



Publishing Results

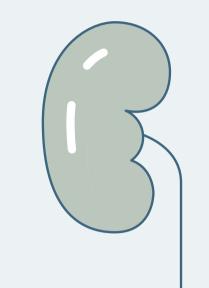
A steering committee of researchers and pharmacy representatives facilitates monthly meetings where project ideas are developed, validated and supported through all stages – from design to publishing the results in reports, posters, scientific papers etc.

Since 2016, the network has supported 49 completed projects, resulting in:

- 15 scientific papers
- 17 reports
- 9 webinars
- 9 posters (8 international, 1 national)
- 8 articles in professional journals

Results

To illustrate the diversity of projects within the network, five of them are highlighted:



Perceptions of

Illness Following the Transition of

Free Medication Dispensing from Hospital

to Community Pharmacy

Purpose: To explore how patients perceive their illness

and treatment when the responsibility for dispensing free

medications is transferred from hospitals to community

pharmacies.

Project lead: University of Copenhagen.

Results: In the primary sector pharmacies, patients report

higher control over their disease and treatment and

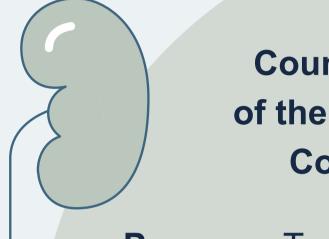
perceive it as less severe. However, at outpatient

clinics, patients experience a lower risk of

deterioration but also report lower control

and higher perceived severity of

the disease.

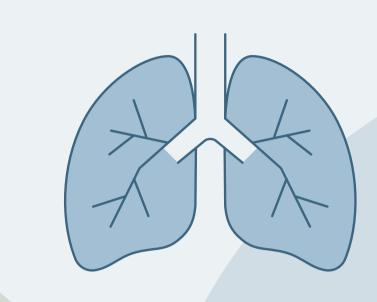


Counselling Patients at Risk of the Triple Whammy Effect in **Community Pharmacies**

Purpose: To improve pharmacy staff's ability to identify and counsel patients at risk of acute kidney injury due to the concurrent use of ACE inhibitors/ ARBs, diuretics and NSAIDs.

Project lead: Community pharmacy-based initiative.

Results: The project led to the development of a counselling guide and increased staff confidence in addressing this risk.



Implementation of PEP Whistle Instruction as a **Community Pharmacy Service**

Purpose: To develop and pilot a pharmacy-based service that provides instruction in the use of PEP (Positive Expiratory Pressure) whistles for patients with respiratory conditions such as COPD, asthma and post-COVID-19 complications. The project explores the feasibility, training needs and financial aspects of delivering this service in community pharmacies.

Project lead: Community pharmacy-based initiative.

Results: The service improved patient access to inhalation training and was positively received by pharmacy staff, who reported increased confidence in delivering the instruction.

Dosage and Perceived Effects of Wegovy Among Users in Denmark

Purpose: To map dosage patterns, treatment expectations and experienced effects and side effects among adult users of semaglutide (Wegovy®) for weight loss.

Project lead: University of Southern Denmark.

Results: Among 559 respondents, the median weight loss increased with treatment duration, and 59 % reported side effects, most commonly nausea and constipation.



Development and Evaluation of a Feedback Guide for Professional Assessment of Customer Interactions in Community Pharmacies

Purpose: To develop and test a structured feedback tool aimed at enhancing the quality of counselling in community pharmacies and aligning with regulatory requirements of the Danish Medicines Agency.

Project lead: Pharmakon – Danish College of Pharmacy Practice.

Results: The guide was piloted in multiple pharmacies using three formats: peer observation, video-based feedback and self-assessment. Thematic analysis of focus group interviews showed that improved communication awareness facilitates a more patient-centred approach.

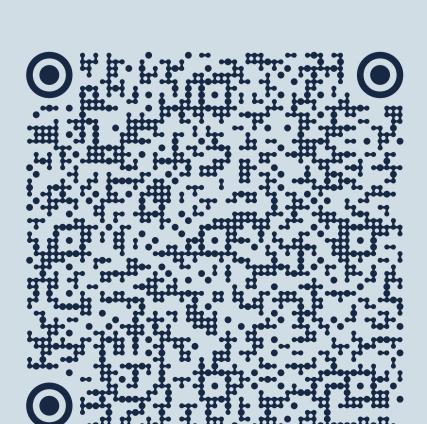
Exploring Onboarding in the Community Pharmacy Sector

Purpose: To investigate how onboarding processes in Danish community pharmacies influence the well-being, job satisfaction and sense of organizational belonging of new employees. Using a mixed-methods approach that combines qualitative interviews and a questionnaire, the study aims to identify best practices for onboarding in a sector facing recruitment challenges.

Project lead: Community pharmacy-based initiative.

Results: Onboarding in the pharmacy sector often lacks consistency and structure, leading to insecurity and reduced engagement. Effective onboarding depends on clear expectations, strong relationships, and strategic planning.

Poster download



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Conclusion

The network bridges the gap between research and practice, enabling community pharmacies to engage in meaningful, evidence-based development. It fosters mutual learning and ensures that both academic and practice-based perspectives shape the future of pharmacy services in Denmark.