Addressing the Workforce Challenge: Role of the Advanced Pharmacist Practitioner (APP)

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Conflict of Interest

In relation to this presentation, I declare that I have no conflict of interest.
As HIV services evolve, the pharmacist role has remained traditional. Pharmacist-led clinics operate in many centres: these are usually medication-focused and supplement routine clinician appointments. To preserve continuity of our services, a pharmacist was appointed to a vacant advanced nurse practitioner role. The APP provided HIV follow-up care including consultation, history taking, requesting pathology/imaging and prescribing.

Methods:
- Prospective data collection of consultations (12mth period)
- HCP survey to capture opinion of APP role
- National survey for HIV pharmacists to determine appetite for role
Results

- 500 consultations conducted (435 individual PLWH); 93% F2F
- 90% virologically suppressed (VL <50). Of those with VL >200, 15/25 demonstrated a one log\textsubscript{10} VL drop at subsequent appt
- Senior advice sought for 5% of consultations

### Survey results

- 30/55 HCPs responded to the survey:
  - 80% previously aware pharmacists could prescribe; 17% aware they could request imaging/pathology
  - 100% felt confident in the APP’s ability to prescribe & undertake consultations
  - 97% strongly agreed that APPs should be included in future business planning

### Intervention / Investigation | n (PLWH)
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Imaging requested | 116 (93)
Referral to other services | 99 (90)
Initiate or switch ARVs | 83 (82)
Medicines optimisation (e.g. initiate/titrate non-ARVs) | 58 (56)
Vaccine prescribed | 55 (45)
Conclusion

- Pharmacists can be clinicians!
- APP delivered holistic care for PLWH, encompassing medically complex and those with viraemia
- APPs are well positioned to deliver medicines optimisation and medical management for an ageing HIV cohort
- This unique skillset should be harnessed, particularly in view of NHS workforce shortages
- Recruitment of pharmacists into practitioner posts would consolidate MDTs and retain medicines expertise within services