

BACKGROUND

- Transitions of care refers to patient’s movement between health care settings, practitioners and residence as needs and status changes
- Many studies have found that preventable medications errors are considered a major pitfall within transition from hospital to home or facility
- Statistically significant findings showing improved transitions of care through pharmacist led initiatives have been found in many different settings
- One area that has yet to integrate transitions of care measures, is within the community pharmacy setting

OBJECTIVES

- To identify barriers and potential solutions for the holes in successful transitions of care, related to community pharmacy

METHODS

Study Design

- Descriptive Analysis
- A survey was developed, targeting community pharmacists, to uncover the significance of pre-specified perceived barriers and potential solutions in creating a smooth transition home for recently discharged patients
- Surveys were distributed by social media and email, with data collection through an online survey database, Qualtrics
- Point assignments for ranked barriers and solutions were predetermined. 6 points assigned to the option ranked of highest importance, 1 point assigned to the option ranked least important

Data Source

- Respondents needed to be community pharmacists
- Respondents were asked to disclose the type of community pharmacy in which they worked, the years of experience and average number of prescriptions filled per day

METHODS

Study Sample

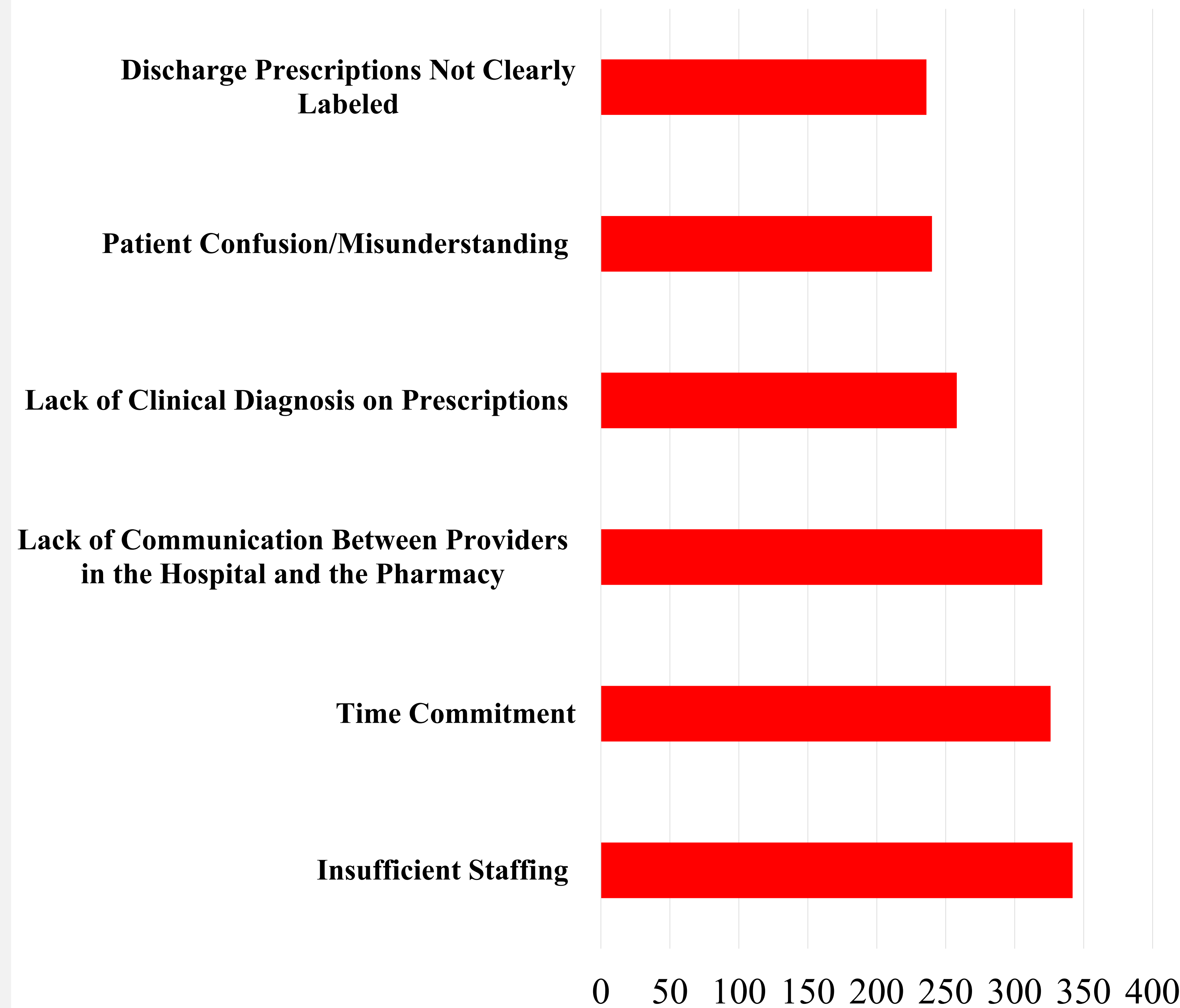
- *Inclusion criteria:* Community pharmacists able to complete the survey using social media or email links
- *Exclusion criteria:* Pharmacists who were not working within a community pharmacy setting

Primary Outcome Studied: Perceived Barriers and Solutions

- Pre-specified Barriers & Solutions were ranked based on significance and were allotted points based on rankings
- These rankings were based solely on each pharmacist’s personal experience, as they were able to rank each option however they pleased

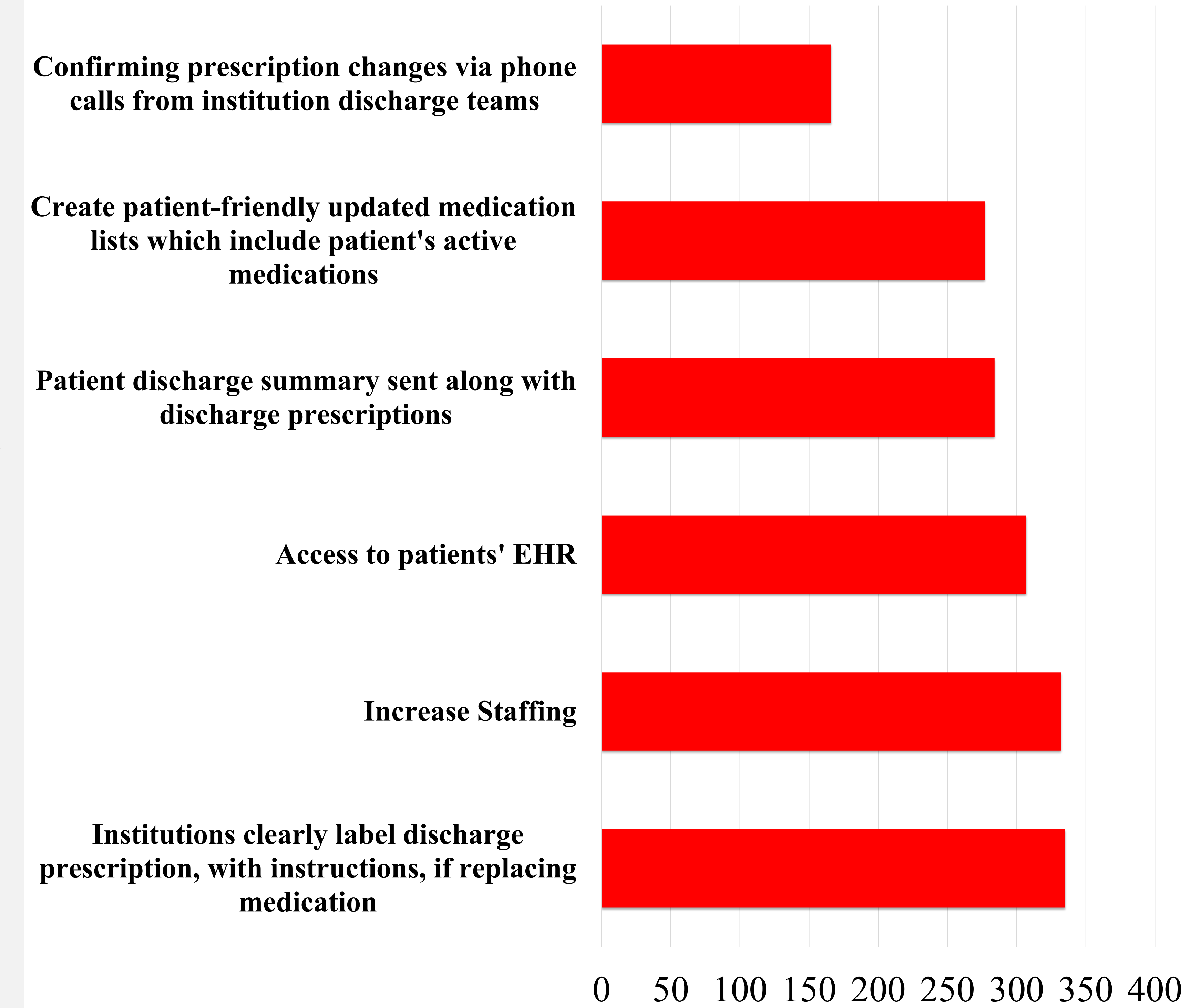
RESULTS

Ranked Perceived Barriers



RESULTS

Ranked Potential Solution



- 81 total participants were considered and their rankings of pre-specified barriers and solutions are shown above
- The three highest ranked perceived barriers were as follows: 1. Insufficient Staffing, 2. Time Commitment, and 3. Lack of communication between hospital providers and pharmacy
- The three highest ranked potential solutions were as follows: 1. Institutions clearly labelling discharge prescription, with instructions, if replacing medications, 2. Increasing Staff, 3. Access to Patient’s EHR

CONCLUSION

Our research uncovered community pharmacists’ perceived barriers to implementing transitions of care methods into workflow, as well as identified potential solutions. This study provides practical data that can be utilized for implementing change in community pharmacies creating better, more efficient care as patients transition across healthcare settings.