

# Views of Independent Prescribing Pharmacists on the community pharmacy pilot Independent Prescribing Service: A qualitative study R Deslandes [1], E Mantzourani [1,2], K Hodson [1], L Taylor [1]

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### Introduction and aim

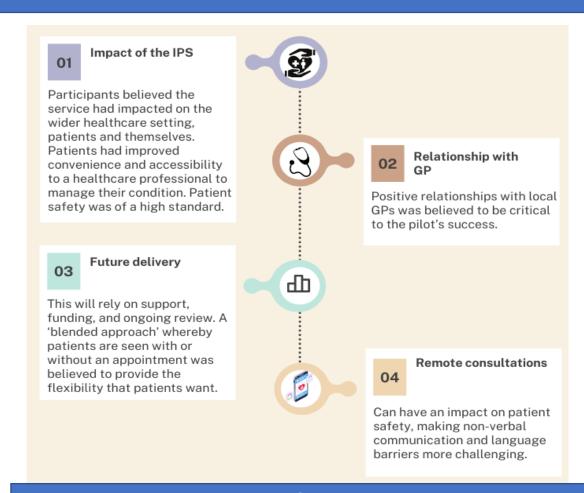
- Independent Prescribing Pharmacists (IPPs) can prescribe autonomously within their scope of practice (SoP). The Welsh strategy: Delivering a Healthier Wales envisages at least one IPP in each community pharmacy by 2030.
- In 2020, an Independent Prescribers' Service (IPS) pilot was delivered in 13 pharmacies across six of the seven Health Boards (HB) in Wales.
- IPS allowed patients to access advice, and, where relevant, be treated in the community pharmacy setting, rather than the GP surgery.
- Aim: To explore the views of community IPPs delivering the IPS on the service.

## Methodology

- Semi-structured interviews, via telephone or MSTeams were conducted with community IPPs practising in the thirteen commissioned pharmacies, and who had completed at least one IPS consultation.
- Participants were informed of the study and written; informed consent obtained.
- Interviews were recorded, transcribed and analysed via deductive and inductive thematic analysis.
- All identifiable information were removed to ensure anonymity.

#### Results

- Nine interviews were conducted, with participants from all HBs in the pilot.
- The IPPs' scope of practice included acute minor ailments, contraception, urinary tract infections and asthma. **Four** themes were identified:



## **Conclusion**

- Participants were supportive of the service which will potentially benefit IPPs, patients and GPs, improve patient care and make use of the skills of those working in the community.
- More information is needed to understand the impact of the service and effect on practice, from the practitioner and patient perspectives.