



Results of a national prescribing survey of Registered Nurse and Midwifery Prescribers in Ireland

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on behalf of

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DISCLOSURE PRESENTER



✓	No (potential) conflict of interests	
✓	1. Relations that could be relevant for the meeting	<company names>
✓	2. Sponsorship or research funds	<company names>
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Historical Development of Prescribing in Ireland

Providing of prescriptive authority to nurses and midwives in Ireland was in direct response to the Commission of Nursing – A Blueprint for the Future (DoHC 1998). Legislation introduced in May 2007 gave prescriptive authority to nurses and midwives under specific conditions.

It is open to all grades of nurses and midwives, provided they have completed an accredited nurse prescribing education course, are registered with the NMBI as a nurse or midwife prescriber, have relevant clinical experience, and a collaborative practice agreement (CPA) with their employer.

The CPA is an accord between a nurse or midwife, their health service employer, and a registered medical practitioner, which lists the specific medications that the nurse or midwife can prescribe (Drennan *et al.*, 2011). This allows nurse and midwife prescribers to prescribe independently from a formulary specific to their area of clinical practice (Lockwood and Fealy 2008).



Literature Review

- Given the need for timely, accessible and affordable healthcare services world-wide prescribing behaviour merits investigation particularly as many front-line registered nurses and midwives may gain prescribing rights.
- There is a deficit of literature that explores the prescribing practice behaviours of nurse and midwife prescribers. Drennan *et al.* 2011 revealed that there were individuals and organisational barriers to prescribing and Creedon, McCarthy & Kennedy (2014) revealed that the prescribers had workload concerns.
- Hyde *et al.* (2016) revealed that nurses were more positive about prescribing than physicians and radiographers.
- With the current changes to policy for advanced practitioners in Ireland (Department of Health 2017) and the need to ensure that all advanced practitioners become prescribers it is timely to undertake a study that explores the current prescribing behaviours of nurses and midwives.
- This study builds on the previous international work (Cashin *et al.*, 2009; Drennan *et al.*, 2011, Buckley *et al.*, 2013, Creedon *et al.*, 2015).



Aim and Objectives

The aim of the study is to explore the prescribing practice behaviours of Registered Nurse and Midwifery Prescribers in Ireland.

Objectives:

- 1.To identify current prescribing practices.
- 2.To explore the enablers and barriers that may encourage/prevent registered nursing and midwifery prescribers from using their license immediately on completion of their registration as a prescriber.
- 3.To determine the level of confidence reported in relation to each prescribing competence as outlined by NMBI.
- 4.To ascertain the participants' level of knowledge and confidence in relation to prescribing activities.
- 5.To identify what medicines nurse and midwife prescribers currently prescribe.



Research Design

- ▶ A national online prescribing survey. Areas included:- demographic data, participant's practice, self reported level of confidence in attaining specified national competence standards, approximation of actual time engaged in prescribing activities, types of medications prescribed, knowledge and confidence in relation to prescribing within each individual specific practice setting, sources of information used/consulted to assist with prescribing, participants attitudes towards safety of prescribing, emotions during prescribing.
- ▶ Survey ran from 8th May until July 17th 2018.
- ▶ Recruited via email through Senior Nursing/Midwifery Managers in the HSE and in Private Practice agreed to send the survey and the information leaflet to all RNPs/RMPs in their employment.
- ▶ Snowball sampling was used to to access participants.
- ▶ Ethical approval was obtained from University College Dublin. All data was anonymised.



Sample Size

Sample consisted of $n=129$.

- ▶ The total number of nurses and midwives registered as Registered Nurse Prescribers (RNPs) with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) is 1108 of which 145 are Midwives.
- ▶ A total of 1041 have a valid Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA) and are entitled to prescribe.
- ▶ Valid response of 12.4%



Data Analysis

Quantitative data - REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) software solution and workflow methodology used for designing clinical and translational research databases

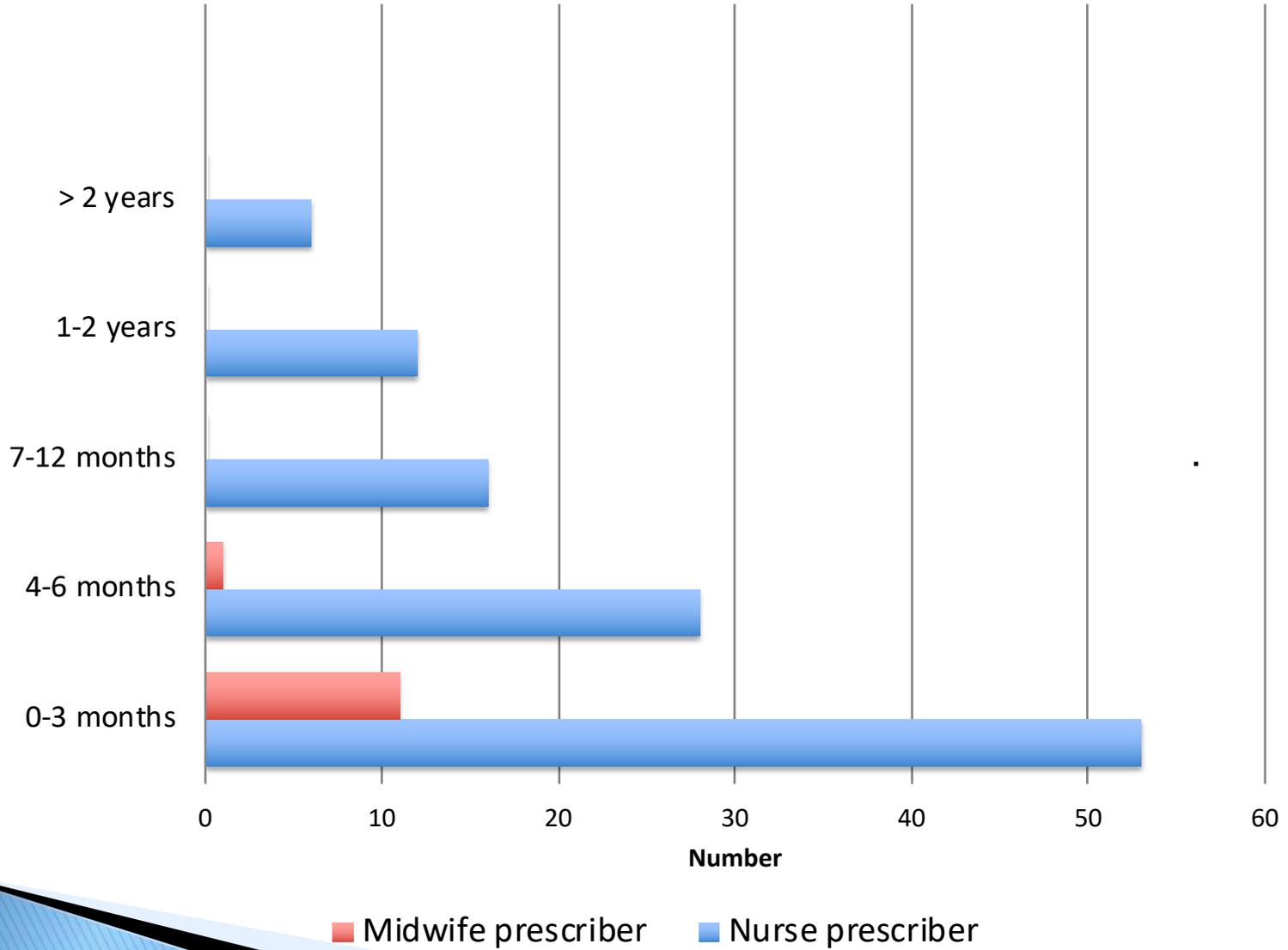
SPSS

Qualitative data – not included in this presentation

Findings: Description of Participants

		Nurse Prescribers N (%)	Midwife Prescribers N (%)	Total
Gender	Male	17 (14.7)	0	17 (13.3)
	Female	99 (85.3)	12 (100)	111 (86.7)
Age (Mean, SD)		45.8 (7.5)	46.7 (7.6)	46.0 (7.7)
Highest academic qualification	Diploma	6 (5.1)	0	6 (4.7)
	Bachelor Degree	8 (6.8)	2 (16.7)	10 (7.8)
	Graduate Cert	4 (3.4)	1 (8.3)	5 (3.9)
	Graduate Dipl	25 (21.4)	2 (16.7)	27 (20.9)
	Masters	70 (59.8)	7 (58.3)	77 (59.7)
	Doctorate	2 (1.7)	0	2 (1.6)
	Other ("ANP")	2 (1.7)	0	2 (1.6)
Registered Qualification (Tick all that apply – not mutually exclusive)	RGN	98 (83.8)	11 (91.7)	109
	RM	7 (6.0)	12 (100.0)	19
	RPN	31 (26.5)	1 (8.3)	32
	RNID	2 (1.7)	0	2
	RCN	23 (19.7)	1 (8.3)	24
	RNT	5 (4.3)	1 (8.3)	6
Professional discipline that are currently working	General nursing	49 (41.9)	0	49 (38.0)
	Mental Health	18 (15.4)	0	18 (14.0)
	Childrens nursing	19 (16.2)	0	19 (14.7)
	Midwifery	0	12 (100.0)	12
	Public Health	1 (0.9)	0	1 (0.8)
	Other (see Table 2 below)	30 (25.6)	0	30 (23.3)
Number of years registered as a nurse (for nurse prescribers) or midwife (for midwife prescribers) with NMBI (Mean, SD)		20.7 (7.9)	15.1 (7.9)	
Year of registering as a nurse or midwife prescriber		Range 2006 to 2018 (83 of 112 since 2013)	Range 2009 to 2018 (10 out of 12 since 2012)	

Delay between registration and first episode of prescribing

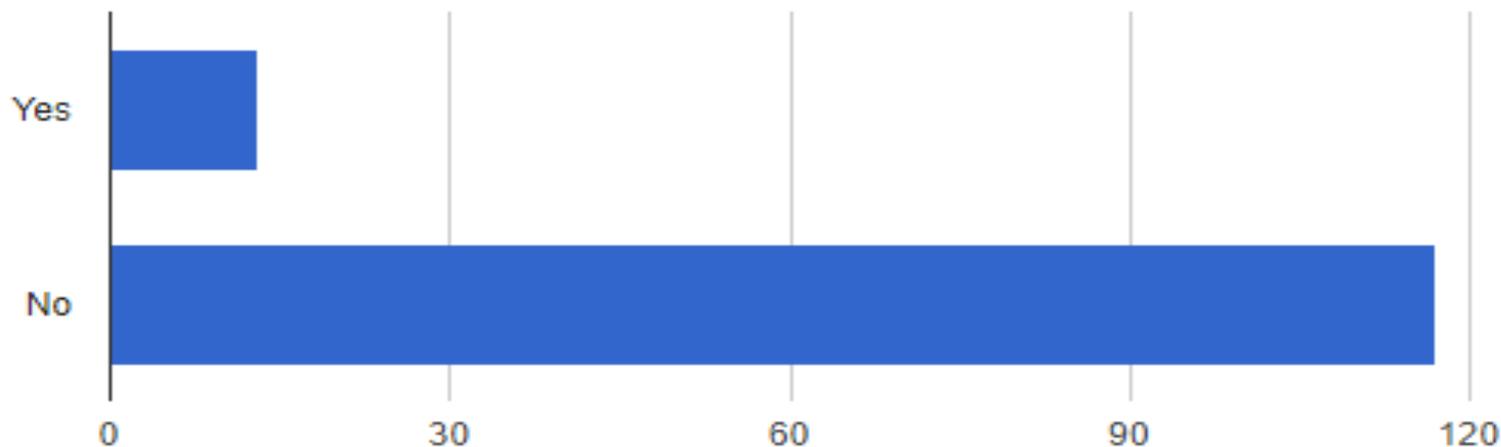




Roles within organisation in facilitating prescribing for other nurses/midwives

Total Count (N)	Missing	Unique
130	<u>43 (24.9%)</u>	2

Counts/frequency: Yes (13, 10.0%), No (117, 90.0%)



Commonest GROUP of medications prescribed

Groups of medications prescribed	Nurse prescribers	Midwife prescribers	Total sample
Analgesics	71 (60.7)	6 (50.0)	77 (59.7)
Anaesthetics	67 (57.3)	6 (50.0)	73 (56.6)
Endocrine medications	65 (55.6)	5 (41.7)	70 (54.3)
Vaccines	68 (58.1)	6 (50.0)	74 (57.4)
Obstetric/Gynecology medications	66 (56.4)	6 (50.0)	72 (55.8)
Respiratory medications	67 (57.3)	6 (50.0)	73 (56.6)
Blood and electrolyte medications	66 (56.4)	7 (58.3)	73 (56.6)
Psychotropic medications	68 (58.1)	6 (50.0)	74 (57.4)
Cardiovascular medications	65 (55.6)	6 (50.0)	71 (55.0)
Anti-infective medications	71 (60.7)	6 (50.0)	77 (59.7)

Areas of Practice for Nurse and Midwife Prescribers

Area of practice	Nurse prescriber N (%)	Midwife prescriber N (%)	Total sample N (%)
Hospital based	83 (72.2)	11 (91.7)	94 (74.0)
Community based	26 (22.6)	0	
Combination Hospital/Community	4 (3.5)	1 (8.3)	5 (3.9)
Elsewhere/Other (GP surgery or private clinic)	2 (1.7)	0	2 (1.6)

Missing n=46

Area of practice	Nurse prescriber N (%)	Midwife prescriber N (%)	Total sample N (%)
Public sector	97 (85.8)	11 (91.7)	108 (86.4)
Private sector	7 (6.2)	0	7 (5.6)
Combined private and public	9 (8.0)	1 (8.3)	10 (8.0)

Missing n=48

Area of practice	Nurse prescriber N (%)	Midwife prescriber N (%)	Total sample N (%)
City	53 (49.5)	9 (75.0)	62 (52.1)
Rural	19 (17.8)	0	19 (16.0)
Combined city and rural	35 (32.7)	3 (25.0)	38 (31.9)

Missing n=54

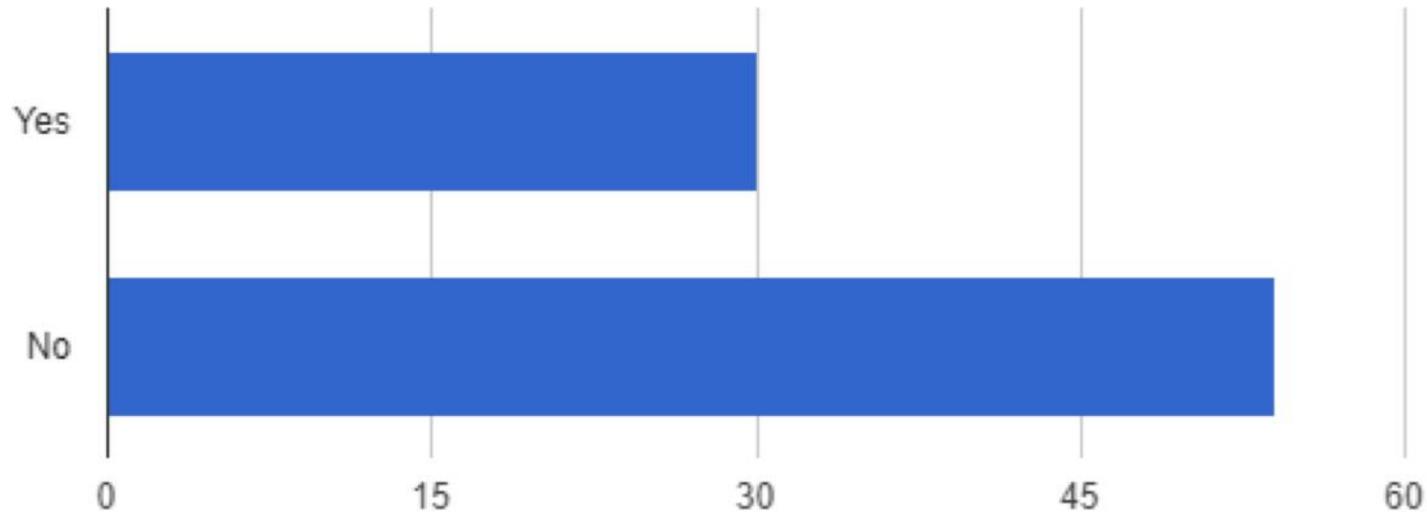


Findings (Selected)

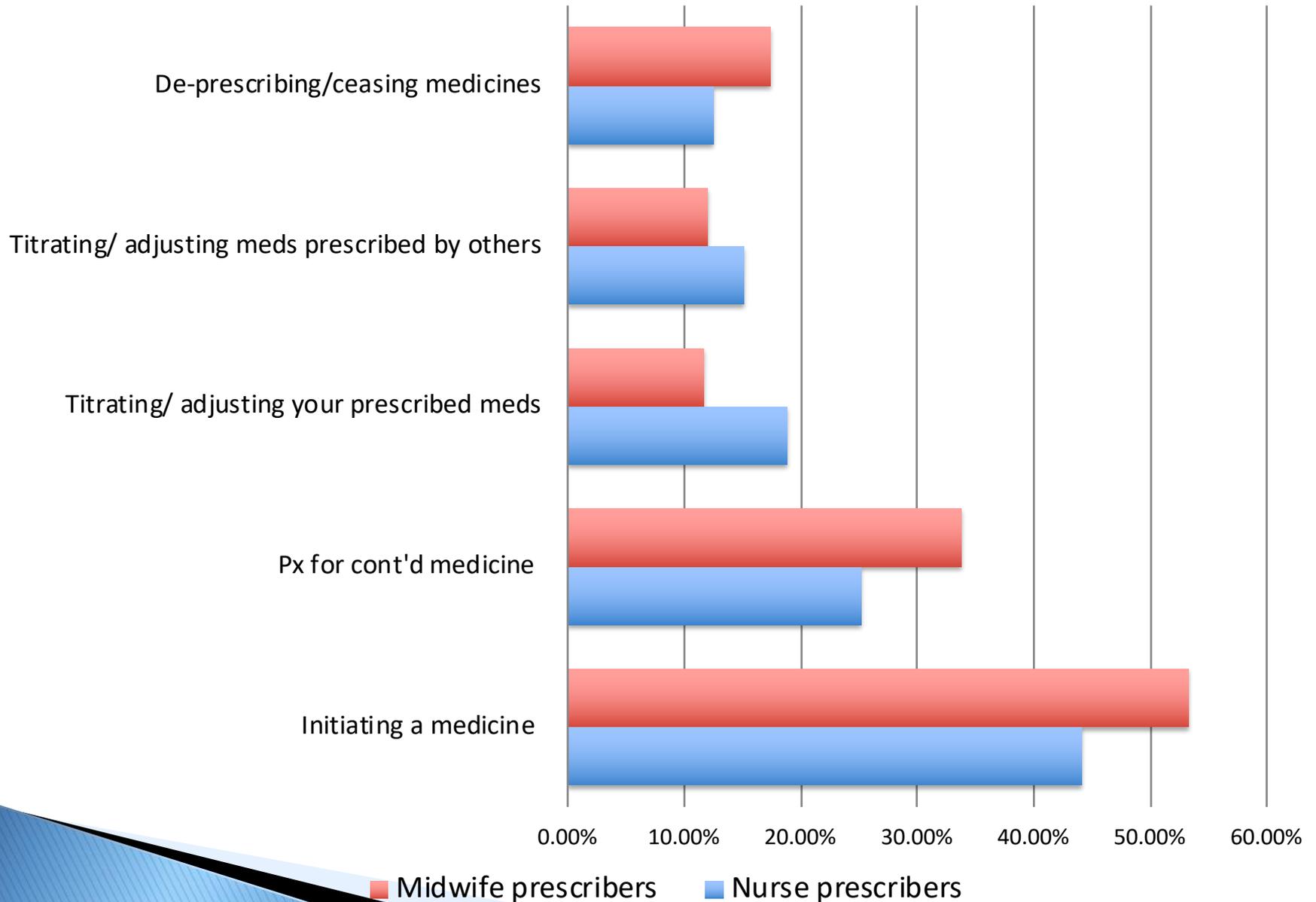
- ❑ 129 participants prescribe , n=117 nurse prescribers and n=12 midwife prescribers.
- ❑ 82% stated that prescribing enabled them to practice to their full SOP
- ❑ 79.5% of nurses reported very confident meeting the legal requirements for prescribing – all the midwives reported feeling confident in this area (n=7)
- ❑ 61.5% of nurses reported feeling very confident and 28.2 % moderately confident in identifying adverse drug reactions.
- ❑ The items receiving the highest confidence rating from midwives were 1. Meeting the legal requirements for prescribing, 2. Providing clients with education, and 3. Providing other healthcare professionals with education.
- ❑ For nurses, the item receiving the highest confidence rating was providing clients with education on their medicines, while the lowest rated item was identifying a drug reaction between complementary and scheduled medicines.
- ❑ A majority of both nurses and midwives reported feeling professionally satisfied, clear headed, efficient, trusted, safe, fulfilled, empowered, and calm when prescribing medications.
- ❑ The majority also reported that did not feel tense, anxious, terrified, forgetful, uncertain, fearful, pressured or nervous when engaged in prescribing activities.



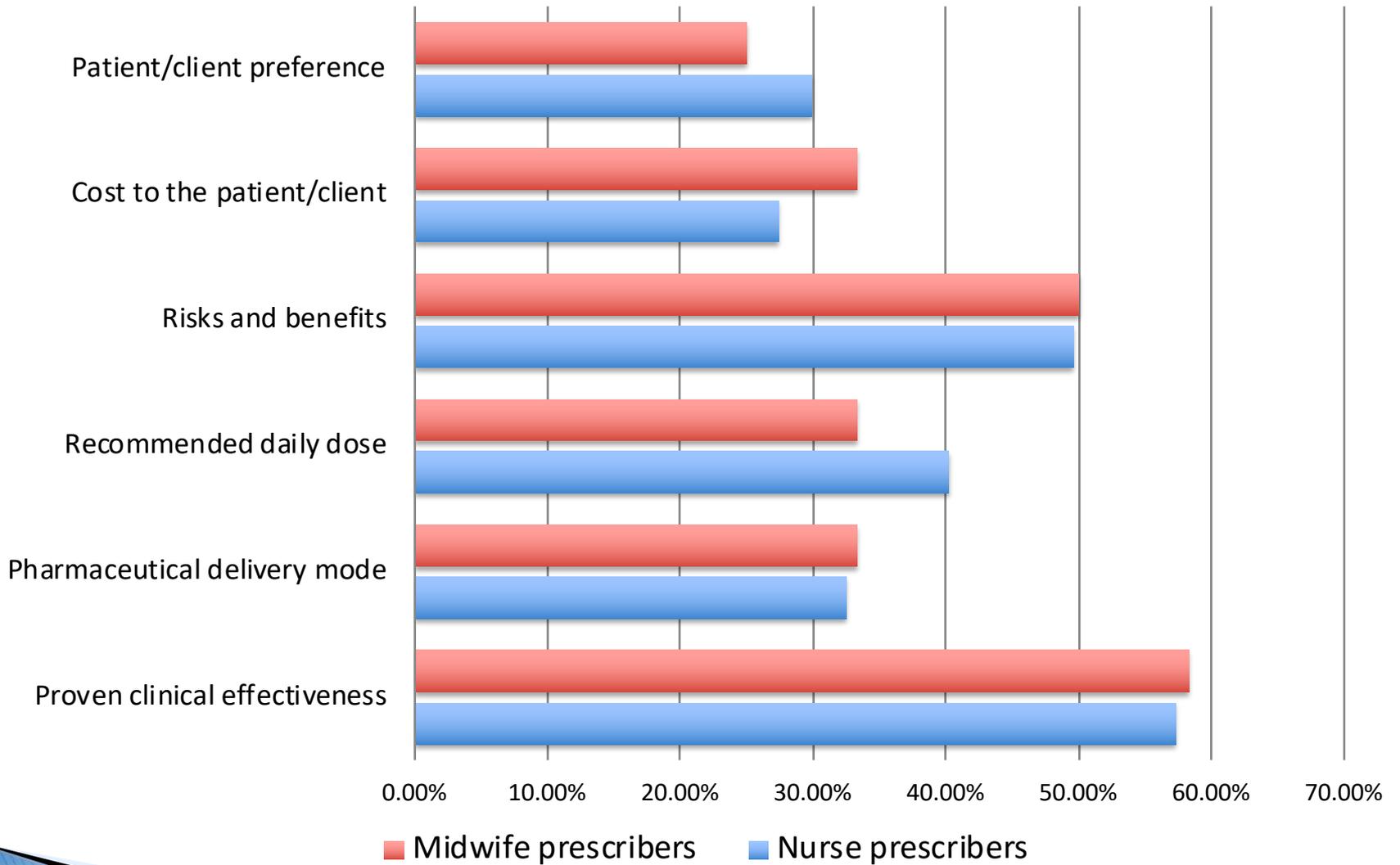
Engaged in any formal training/ education following completing your original course and registering as an Nurse / Midwife Prescriber in relation to the prescribing of medicine



Percentage of prescribing practice relating to...



Criteria when prescribing a specific drug





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