

Introduction and aims



While **5 years of training** are necessary to become a hospital pharmacist (HP) in the **United Kingdom**, **9 years** are required in **France**. The UK system allows hospital pharmacists to acquire an **independent prescribing qualification** which is not possible for French hospital pharmacists who tend to practice a wider range of non-prescribing roles such as the management of sterile medical devices and their process of sterilisation.



The aim of this study was to compare French and UK **hospital pharmacists' perceptions about their roles and identify the challenges** both groups are facing in their profession.

Method



Askabox® survey produced in both English and French



Statistics : Z tests, χ^2 tests, Fisher tests



Distribution via **emails** et **LinkedIn**



Open questions analyses performed with **ChatGPT**



26 questions : 17 mandatory, 6 open questions



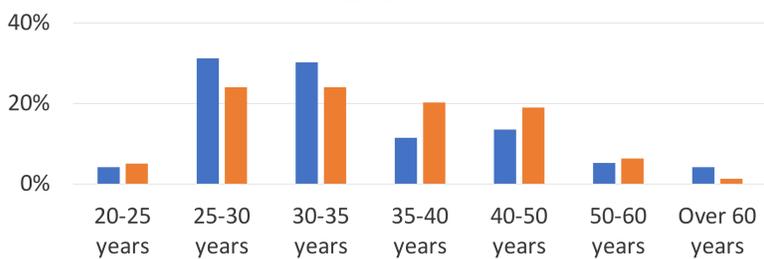
2 months : **175 responses** → 96 in France and 79 in the UK

Results

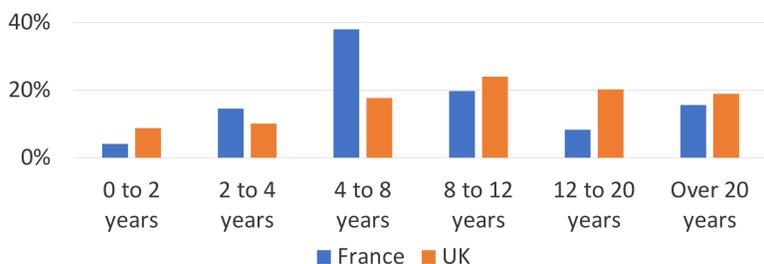
1 Study population

The populations are **similar** in terms of age groups and experience.

Age group



Pharmacy experience



Description

UK

France

p-value



Running clinical activities:

- Less than 25% of total activity

- More than 75% of total activity

- Satisfied with clinical share of duties

- Carrying out patient medication counselling



Doing out of hours duties



Having done additional training



UK : Happy to prescribe drugs

FR : Happy to widen the range of prescription



Happy to prescribe follow-ups tests



Wishing to continue working in their current field

87%

60%

7,1.10⁻⁷

20%

58%

3,5.10⁻⁷

38%

13%

5,4.10⁻⁵

75%

46%

7,4.10⁻⁵

72%

35%

1,3.10⁻⁶

25%

51%

0,01

87%

82%

0,6

98%

53%

NA

78%

68%

0,6

85%

81%

0,5

2 Restrictions

Perceived workload and levels of personal and professional satisfaction are **similar** in both countries.

UK HPs felt more **valued** by **patients** and **doctors** ($p < 5.10^{-4}$, $p < 5.10^{-5}$), more **supported by their trust** ($p < 0.02$) but more **stressed out** ($p < 0.005$).

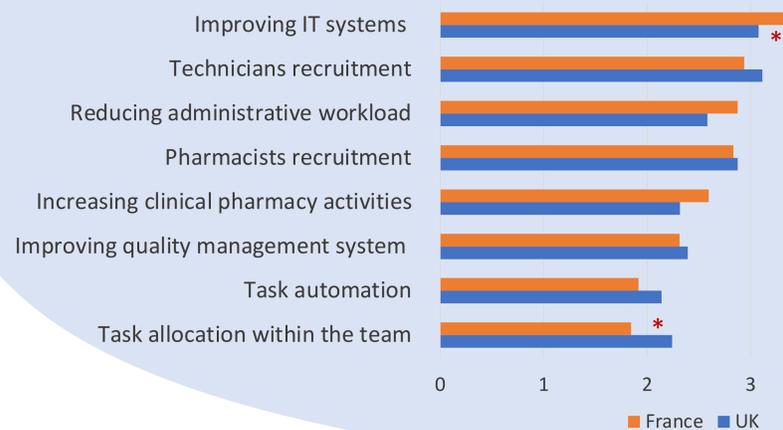
Comparison of hospital pharmacists' perceptions of given situations



3 Priority levels

Both groups would prioritise **improvement of IT systems**, pharmacy **technicians' recruitment**, and **administrative workload reduction**. In the UK a significant number of pharmacists also wish to **reallocate tasks** within the team ($p < 0.02$).

Estimation of hospital pharmacy priorities according to the pharmacists



4 What pharmacists say

UK pharmacists :

- To see the development of **pharmacist-led consultations**, **research opportunities** and **better integration into multidisciplinary teams**
- To **improve IT tools** and **reducing administrative tasks**
- Better **communication** of the pharmacist's role to the public

In France :

- Fears about independent prescribing** linked to conflicts with doctors
- To **develop clinical pharmacy** and **improve training** in this area
- Better **integration with medical teams**
- To **improve IT tools** and pharmaceutical analysis

Both groups share the **same values** such as **feeling useful in the patients' care**. They also enjoy the **variety and the challenges of the role**.

Conclusions



This study shows that **hospital pharmacists enjoy their profession** despite issues that would require a reorganisation at a national level such as improving IT systems and reducing administrative tasks.

The results suggest that :

- UK pharmacists** are **more confident** in their independent prescribing role,
- French pharmacists** are **concerned** about the responsibilities and workload that independent prescribing can cause.

Some biases:

- geographical**: practice locations not collected
- centre-effect**: UK pharmacists mainly practising in the oncology field



The French order of February 2023 on the renewal and adaptation of prescriptions by hospital pharmacists under local protocols set up with doctors is the first step towards independent prescribing.

⇒ This is a similar approach to the **Patient Group Directions in the UK**, which governs strict rules for dispensing and/or administering specialities requiring a prescription, without having to consult a doctor.