

Detection and follow-up of drug related problems for patients with cardiovascular disease:

A study of the Medicine Start Service in hospital pharmacies

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Background

Drug related problems (DRP) are defined as “an event or circumstance involving drug therapy that actually or potentially interferes with desired health outcomes”. Medicine Start Service (MSS) is a standardized government-funded pharmacy service, free of charge for all patients with a new cardiovascular disease (CVD) medication, aiming at improving patient safety.

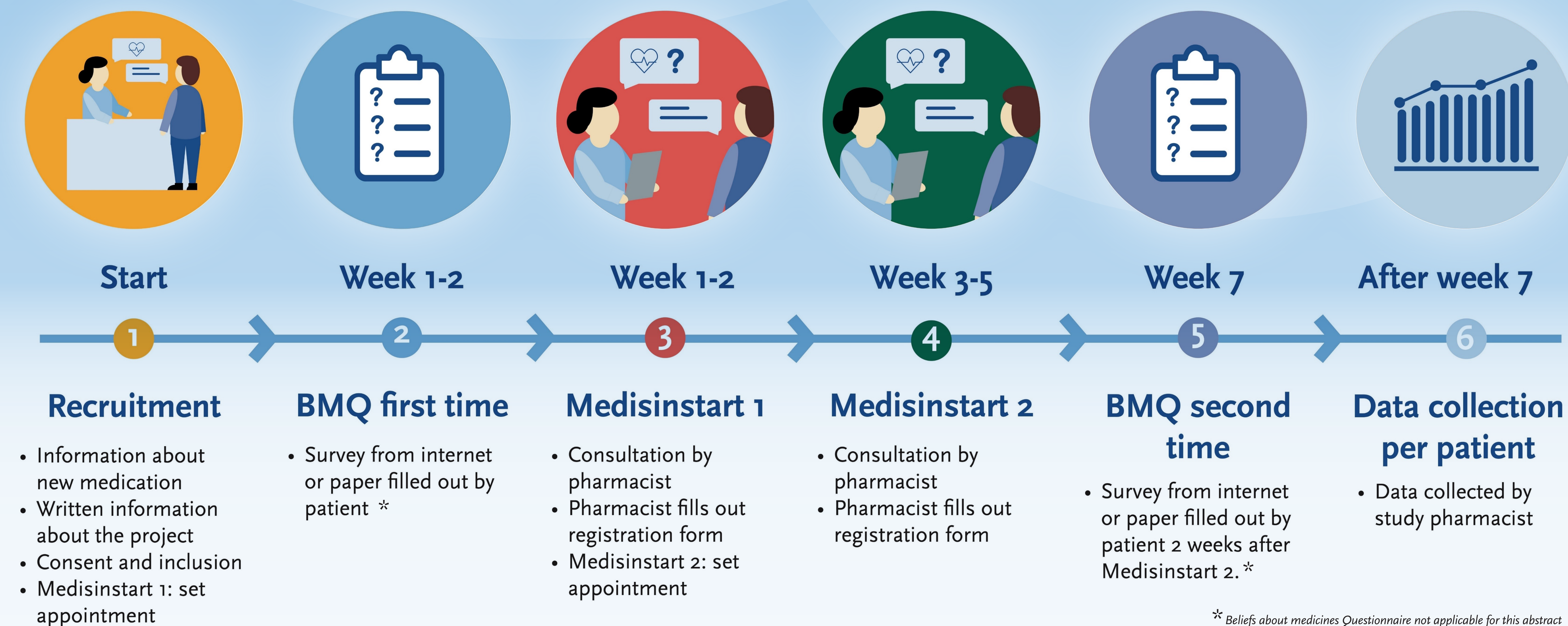
Aim and Objectives

To assess the number and nature of DRPs detected during MSS consultations, and to investigate how pharmacists followed up those DRPs.

Materials and Methods

A prospective, uncontrolled, multicenter intervention study was conducted from September 2019 to February 2021 in three different hospital pharmacies in Norway. DRPs were registered during two consultations, between a pharmacist and a patient, and classified into seven different DRP categories according to a modification of the system developed by Ruths *et al.* (1)

Timeline per patient included



Drug related problems (DRPs) detected during Medicine Start Service consultations

Results

A total of 67 patients completed both consultations. Pharmacists detected 83 and 67 DRPs in consultation 1 and 2, respectively. DRPs related to adverse drug reaction (ADR) were most frequent (42%). The pharmacists resolved 90% of the DRPs, most frequently by giving advice and counselling (60%). The prescribing physician was contacted in less than 8% of the cases.

Conclusions

Pharmacists found DRPs in a majority of patients with newly started CVD medicines, most common were ADRs. Early detection of DRPs may be of importance for patient safety in the critical phase of transition from hospital to community.

