

Interventions of a clinical pharmacist in an intensive care unit

Kairi Marlen Antoniak¹

¹East Tallinn Central Hospital, Tallinn, Estonia

Contact: kairimarlen.antoniak@itk.ee



EAST TALLINN
CENTRAL HOSPITAL

Background and Importance

Patients in an intensive care unit (ICU) are in critical condition and often receive complex pharmacotherapy that needs to be adjusted frequently. It has been shown that multidisciplinary approach, including pharmacists in the ICU team, improves pharmacologic treatment of patients and helps to provide more individualised therapy (1).

Aim and Objectives

The aim of this study was to identify the most common pharmaceutical care issues (PCI) in the ICU, to assess the acceptance rate of interventions by physicians and nurses made by clinical pharmacist (CP), and to evaluate the time spent on the interventions.

Methods

This study was a prospective interventional study conducted in a 10-bed ICU in an acute care hospital. During 2019, CP visited the ICU 1-2 times a week and performed a chart review. Recommendations were verbally communicated to the nurses and physicians and interventions documented using modified Pharmaceutical Care Network Europe classification of PCI (2). Time dedicated to the interventions was recorded based on the time spent on the visit in the ICU.

Results

During the study period CP visited the ICU 65 times and identified 232 PCI. On average, during each visit, 5 (N=315) patient's charts were reviewed and 1.6 (N=147) interventions per patients were made.

Figure 1. Time spent on the interventions (N=65)

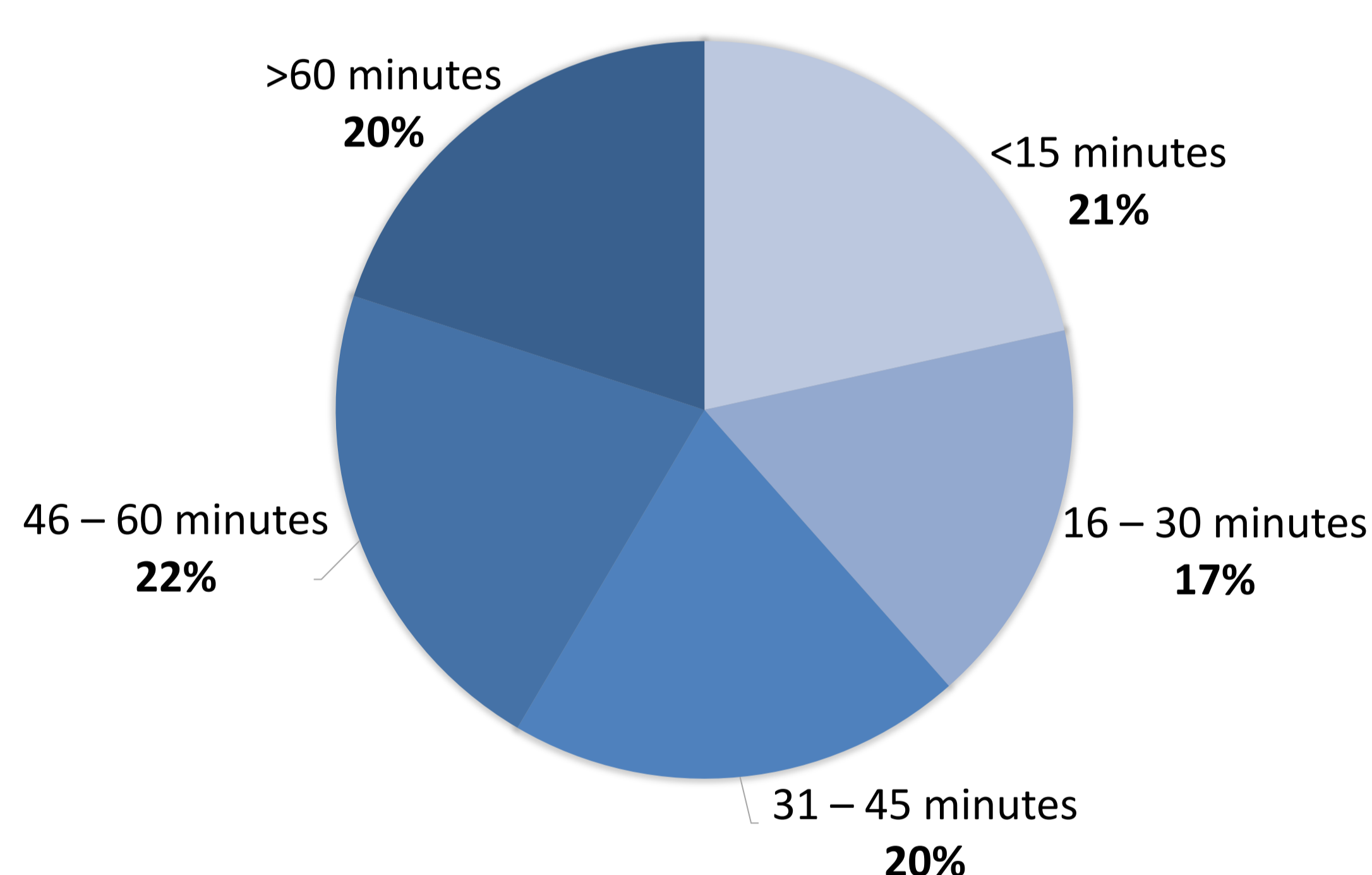


Figure 2. Notification rate of intervention proposals (N=232)

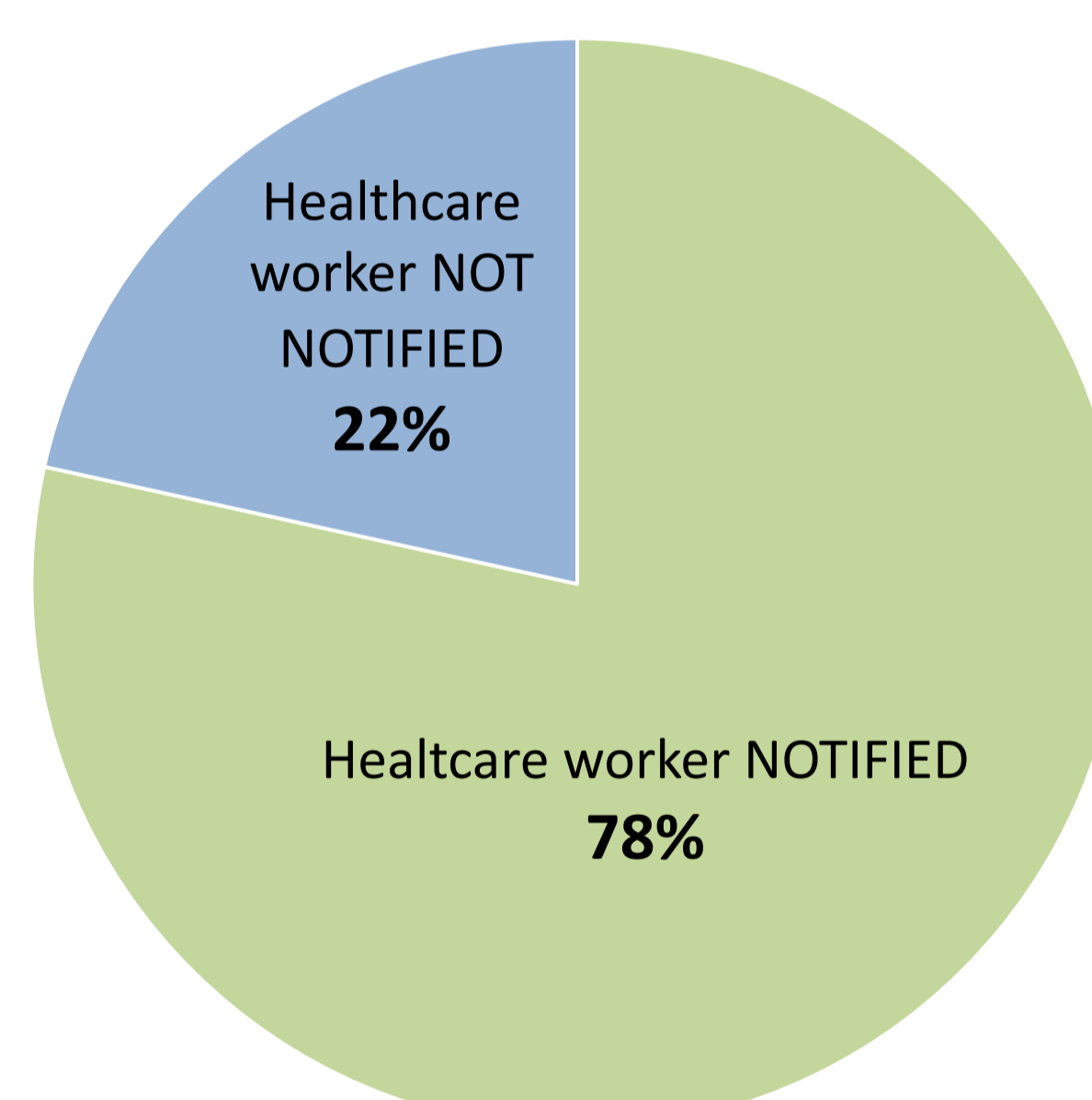


Table 1. Pharmaceutical care issues (N=232)

Pharmaceutical care issue	Value, n (%)
No or incomplete drug treatment in spite of existing indication	25 (11%)
No indication for treatment	2 (1%)
Inappropriate drug	28 (12%)
Subtherapeutic dose	33 (14%)
Supratherapeutic dose	19 (8%)
Risk of adverse drug reactions	18 (8%)
Risk of interaction	20 (9%)
Wrong time/regimen	13 (6%)
Inappropriate dosage form	27 (12%)
Monitoring required	22 (9%)
Compatibility	12 (5%)
Inappropriate documentation	13 (5%)

Table 2. Acceptance of the intervention proposals (N=232)

Intervention proposal	Value, n (%)
Intervention accepted and fully implemented	137 (59%)
Intervention accepted, partially implemented	11 (5%)
Intervention not accepted: not feasible	9 (4%)
Intervention proposed, acceptance unknown	26 (11%)
Intervention not proposed	44 (19%)
Intervention not accepted: unknown reason	5 (2%)

Conclusion and Relevance

This study shows that there is a need for a CP in the ICU. Relatively high rate of un-proposed interventions (19%) could be due to lack of time and the nature of the workflow in the ICU. More regular visits and better collaboration with other healthcare professionals could help improve patient outcomes.

References

1. Cviki M and Sinkovič A. Interventions of a clinical pharmacist in a medical intensive care unit – A retrospective analysis. *Bosn J Basic Med Sci.* 2020;20(4):495-501.
2. Pharmaceutical Care Network Europe Association (PCNE). The PCNE Classification V9.1. 2020.