

# Pharmacy Technicians' Delegated Role

## in Medication Adjustment for Hospitalized Patients:

### Implementation of Therapeutic Substitutions and Discontinuations in the Electronic Medication Module

Maibritt Skov Olsen<sup>1</sup>, Bernd Utech<sup>2</sup>

1: The Hospital Pharmacy, Capital Region of Denmark, 2: Bornholms Hospital, Capital Region of Denmark. [mole0056@regionh.dk](mailto:mole0056@regionh.dk)

#### WHY?

Adjusting patient medication to hospital stock is time consuming and often leads to frustration among staff and patients.

Delegating the task to pharmacy technicians probably enhances patient safety by ensuring scan-ready medication and allowing physicians and nurses to focus on other duties.

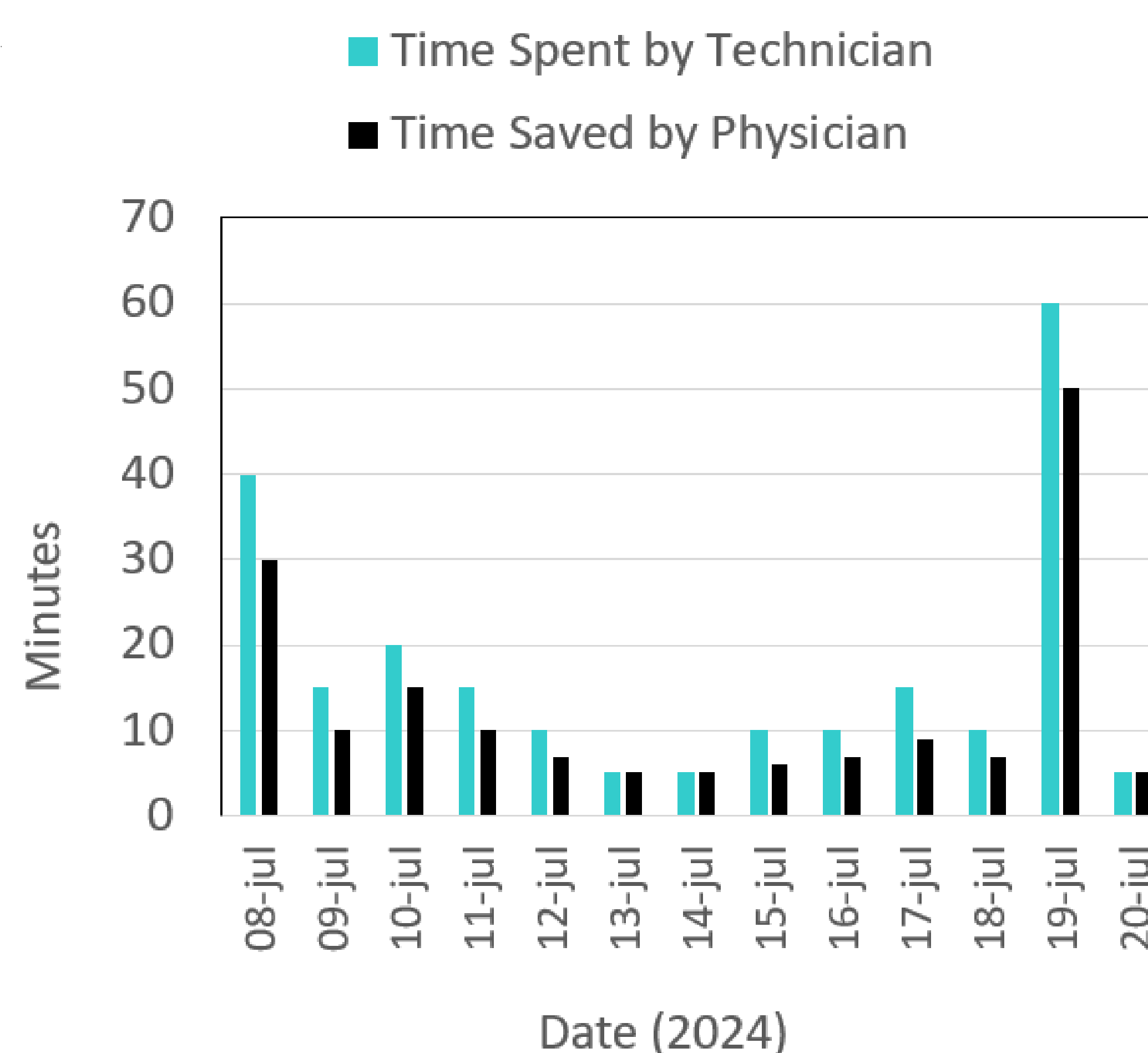
#### How?

The pharmacy and department physician created a list specifying which drugs technicians could adjust or discontinue. The technicians received training, and the physician conducted annual audits.

At the medical ward we tracked interventions, physician consultations, and time spent adjusting medications. Nurses and physicians provided feedback on the pharmacy technicians' work.

#### WHAT?

- **Physicians' time spent on medication adjustments was reduced by 72%**
- Technicians performed 60 interventions, of which only 18% required physicians' involvement
- Nurses find that medication dispensing has become "much easier"
- **Patient safety** has probably increased because the medication can be scanned



Examples from the Medication Adjustment List

Prescribed	Substitute with	Interventions
Unikalk Basic (400 mg) Unikalk Plus (400 mg + 5 µg) Unikalk Silver (400 mg + 10 µg) Unikalk Forte (400 mg + 19 µg) Unikalk Extra (300 mg + 10 µg)	Unikalk Forte (400 mg + 19 mikrog) (substitute 1:1)	For eGFR below 30ml/min, contact physician, as calcium is contraindicated.
Panodil® 665 mg, modified-release Pinex® Retard 500 mg Panodil Zapp	Paracetamol 500 mg, tablet Panodil® 665 mg x 3 daily → paracetamol 500 mg x 4 daily Panodil® 1330 mg x 2 daily → paracetamol 1000 mg x 3 daily Panodil® 1330 mg x 3 daily → paracetamol 1000 mg x 4 daily Pinex® Retard 1000 mg x 2 daily → paracetamol 500 mg x 4 daily Pinex® Retard 2000 mg x 2 daily → paracetamol 1000 mg x 4 daily Panodil Zapp → paracetamol (substitute 1:1)	Paracetamol reduces the bioavailability of lamotrigen by 25%. Contact physician.  Regular intake for more than 5 days may enhance the effect of Warfarin.  Can be changed from regular treatment to PRN (as needed)

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

Pharmacy technician's prescribing authority should be extended to include adjustment of medication and defined medication prescribing for all patients at Bornholms Hospital.

