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How Pharmacists Access Electronic Information About Medicines?

Aim: To determine pharmacists' preferences
for accessing electronic information about medicines

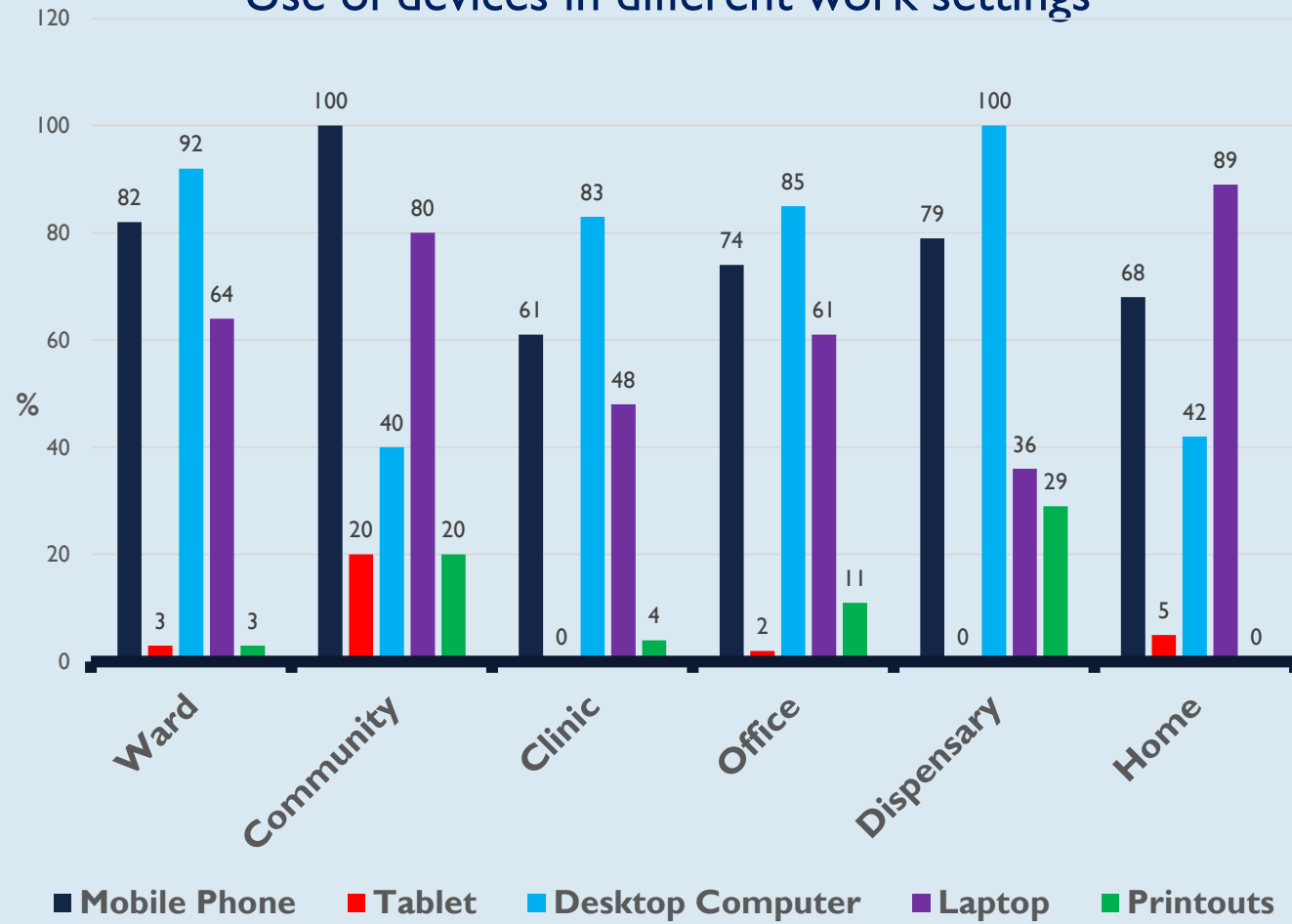**Method:** Electronic Survey for Hospital Pharmacists

- Work setting / Years practicing / MI training

- Devices used in different work settings

- Format / search preferences and barriers

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Use of devices in different work settings

Chart legend: ■ Mobile Phone ■ Tablet ■ Desktop Computer ■ Laptop ■ Printouts

Setting	Mobile Phone	Tablet	Desktop Computer	Laptop	Printouts
Ward	82	3	92	64	3
Community	100	20	40	80	20
Clinic	61	0	83	48	4
Office	74	2	85	61	11
Dispensary	79	0	100	36	29
Home	68	5	42	89	0

RESULTS

- 57 responses
- 30 had >10 years experience

TOP 3 DEVICES:

- 83-100% desktops
- 82-92% mobiles
- 36-89% laptops

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RESULTS

88% would like mobile-friendly screens
67% would like e-resources available as an App

Summary first and option to access detailed information	95%
Detailed information first and an option to access a summary	47%
Quick summary only without any background information	28%
Provides links to extra files or PDFs	77%
Provides option for printing, emailing or downloading	82%

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RESULTS

Search Functions	%
Ctrl +F to search for a word	86
Clicking on menu subheading takes to relevant section	82
Menu lists and scroll	54
Website search function	49
Read entire document	2

Barriers

73-80% Lack of subscriptions or simultaneous users

48% Lack of shared work devices

32% Dislike using personal device for work

10% Lack of training

32% Difficulty reading or accessing info on mobile

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Conclusions

Mobile phones are used widely by pharmacists in all work settings

Popular features of e-resources include:

- Readability on small screens
- Searching via menu with clickable subheadings
- Summary first, then link to detailed information
- Hyperlinks to PDFs, references

Implementation:

- Use these features where possible when writing e.g. MI enquiry responses, guidelines, newsletters
- Improve availability of work devices and subscriptions for multiple users
- Training and refresher training sessions to help pharmacist maintain e-resource skills