

Development of an educational visiting program to improve preceptor engagement in research

Keates B¹, Marotti S¹, Collins J¹, Sok R¹, Prosser A¹, Qassim A¹, Ward M², Rowett D²

¹SA Pharmacy

²School of Pharmacy & Medical Sciences, University of South Australia

Background

UniSA pharmacy students participate in a state-wide drug utilisation project during their six week experiential hospital placement in 4th year. The project aims to expose students and preceptors to drug utilisation research, and increase their skills in participating in such research. The project involved students collecting data on discharge opioid prescribing for opioid naive patients. Participation in the project contributes to their university assessment and the data is aggregated at the state level. There has been limited engagement from student preceptors in student projects, and as a result, poor-quality data and suboptimal engagement from student in previous years.

Description

Educational visiting (EV) is a health professional behaviour change technique that uses a social marketing framework as the basis for planning, developing and implementing the intervention. EV influences the behaviour of individuals by identifying and understanding the perceptions, motivations, values, and behaviour of the target group. *A priori* key messages are developed and delivered in a timely and concise manner. This technique is utilised to support behaviour change, and encourage engagement from student preceptors in drug utilisation research¹.

Action

A project site-lead for each hospital was appointed. Site-leads attended a two day training program on educational visiting. Educational materials and key messages were developed to assist site-leads in their educational visits with student preceptors (Figure 1). Site-leads then met with each student preceptor at the start of their student's placement, and towards the end of the placement. Each visit consisted of a 10 to 15-minute conversation, aimed at delivering the targeted messages to the student preceptor to increase engagement in the drug utilisation project. Preceptors could also contact the site-lead at any time during the placement for further guidance.

Figure 2: number of preceptors participating in an educational visit

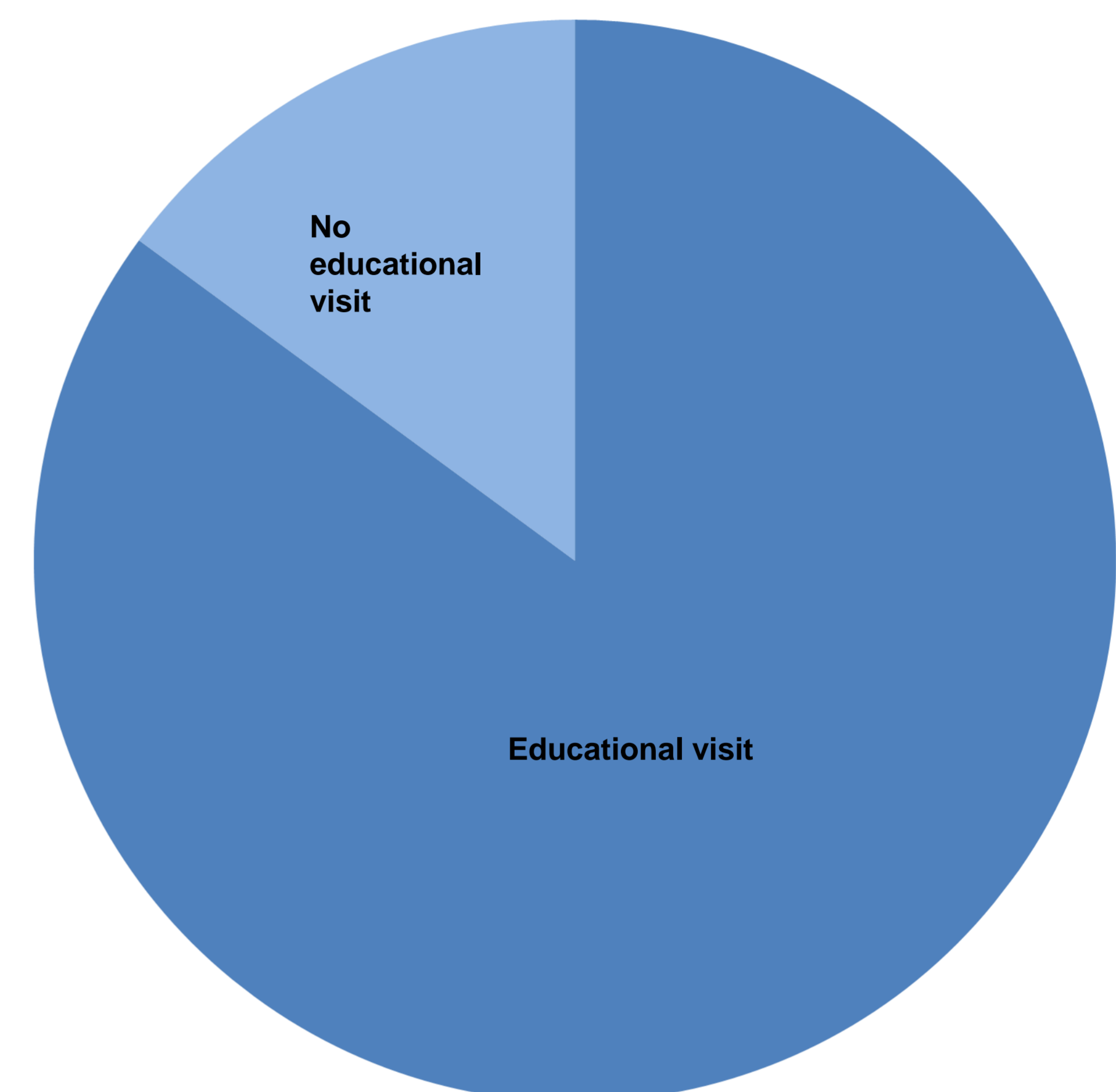


Figure 1: Educational material developed for student preceptors

Information for preceptors

Opioids initiated in hospital and continued on discharge – clinical audit

Inappropriate opioid use causes significant harm and premature mortality in Australia. In Australia each year 800 people die from overdoses associated with prescription opioids. A major risk factor is the initiation of opioids in hospitals which are continued on discharge¹.

Background
SA Pharmacy will be hosting fourth year pharmacy students within all Local Health Networks and will utilise this opportunity to undertake an audit of opioid prescribing on discharge. This audit will aim to determine if there is a disconnect between inpatient opioid use and discharge opioid prescribing, contribute to the practice improvement cycle (see below) and will help to inform development of a multi-disciplinary opioid stewardship program. The activity will also serve as an assessment item for students.

Practice improvement cycle:
Use of opioids on discharge

PLAN INITIATIVES
Plan initiatives to modify professional behaviour to improve outcomes for patients

DO
Roll out planned initiatives, support stakeholders through implementation

REVIEW PRACTICE
Audit current practice against best practice, service goals and desired patient outcomes

SHARE RESULTS
Feedback audit results to stakeholders, share the organisational level to the service level

IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES
Analyse and discuss results in a forum to identify opportunities to improve practice and optimize outcomes

Why get involved?

- Opportunity to engage with research, and provide support and guidance to students
- Enhance research capability and confidence
- Engage with key stakeholders and increase interdisciplinary collaboration

What will I need to do?
Preceptors will support students to audit discharge prescriptions for patients in their area who fulfil the following criteria:

1. No opioids taken in the 7 days prior to current hospital admission
2. Opioid/s prescribed on discharge
3. Patient is discharged Monday to Friday during pharmacy opening hours

Where students are rostered into areas that opioid naive patients are infrequently prescribed opioids on discharge, it is not expected that they collect data for another area.

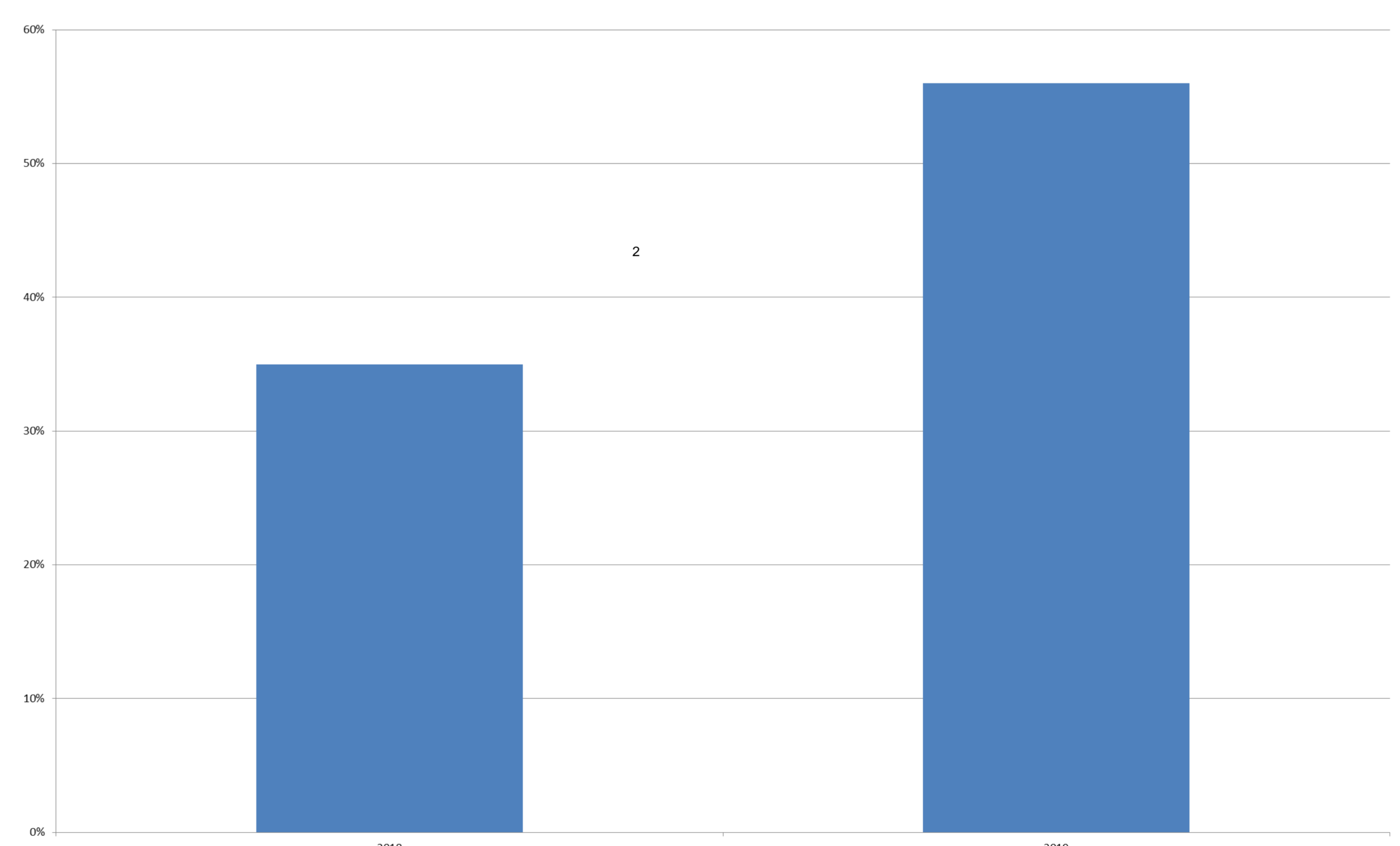
For more information:
Contact the project site lead at your hospital or Sally Marotti (Lead Pharmacist – Experiential Learning, Training and Research)

¹ Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, "Reducing Opioid Related Harm", July 2018

Evaluation

Educational visits were recorded using a state-wide electronic data collection tool. Across the first two student placement blocks in 2019, 85% (97 visits from 114 preceptors) of preceptors participated in an educational visit (Figure 2). This resulted in an increase in data collection from an average of 2.7 patients per student in 2018, to 3.1 patients per student in 2019 ($p=0.063$), and an increase in the proportion of students who collected data from 35% in 2018, to 56% in 2019 ($p= 0.0165$) (Figure 3).

Figure 3: proportion of students collecting data in 2018, compared with 2019



Implications

Educational visiting is a suitable method to increase student and preceptor engagement in drug utilisation research.

References

1. Dyrkorn R et al. Academic detailing as a method of continuing medical education. *Adv Med Educ Pract.* 2019; 30(10): 717-725