

A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ADDRESSING PRESCRIPTION DISCREPANCIES IN RENAL PATIENTS

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Introduction

Prescribing new, changing or stopping medications in clinic is a key role of the clinical Nephrologist. If this is based on false information the potential for serious errors arises. We looked at the accuracy of our data by comparing patient's prescription lists against our recorded list to see how many discrepancies there were, and if simple interventions could make a difference to this.

A map of Dorset

• Clinics are run in Dorchester, Poole, Bournemouth and Yeovil.



Method

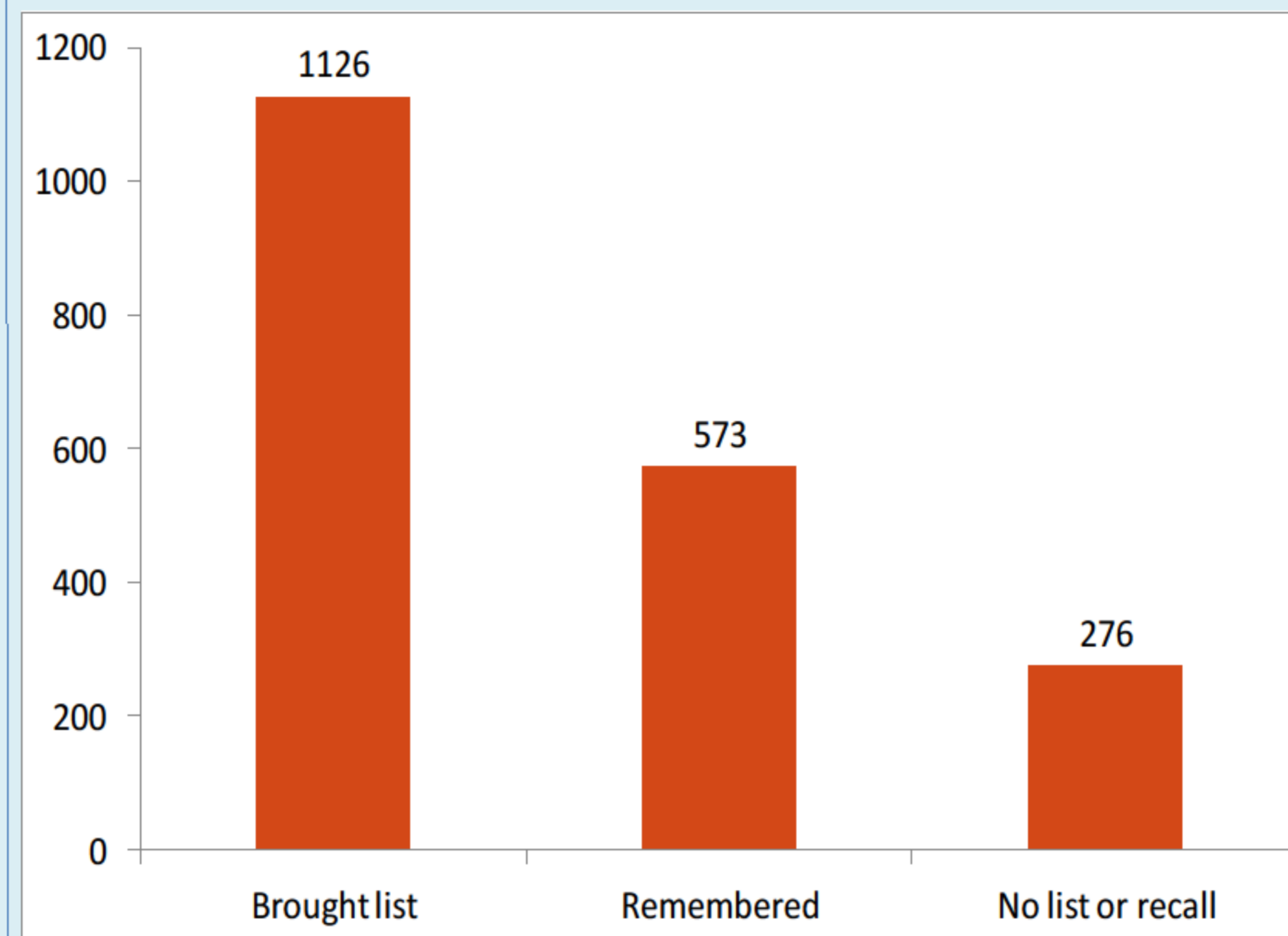
Data was collected over 12 consecutive months by one Consultant in out-patient clinics over four sites. It was recorded if the patient brought a prescription list with them, as requested in the clinic appointment letter, and what discrepancies between our recorded list and their actual medications were present. If they did not bring a list, the GP surgery was contacted and an up to date list was obtained.

2 months in to the year, the appointment invitation letter was changed to ask them to bring a list, and after 6 months this was highlighted in bold.

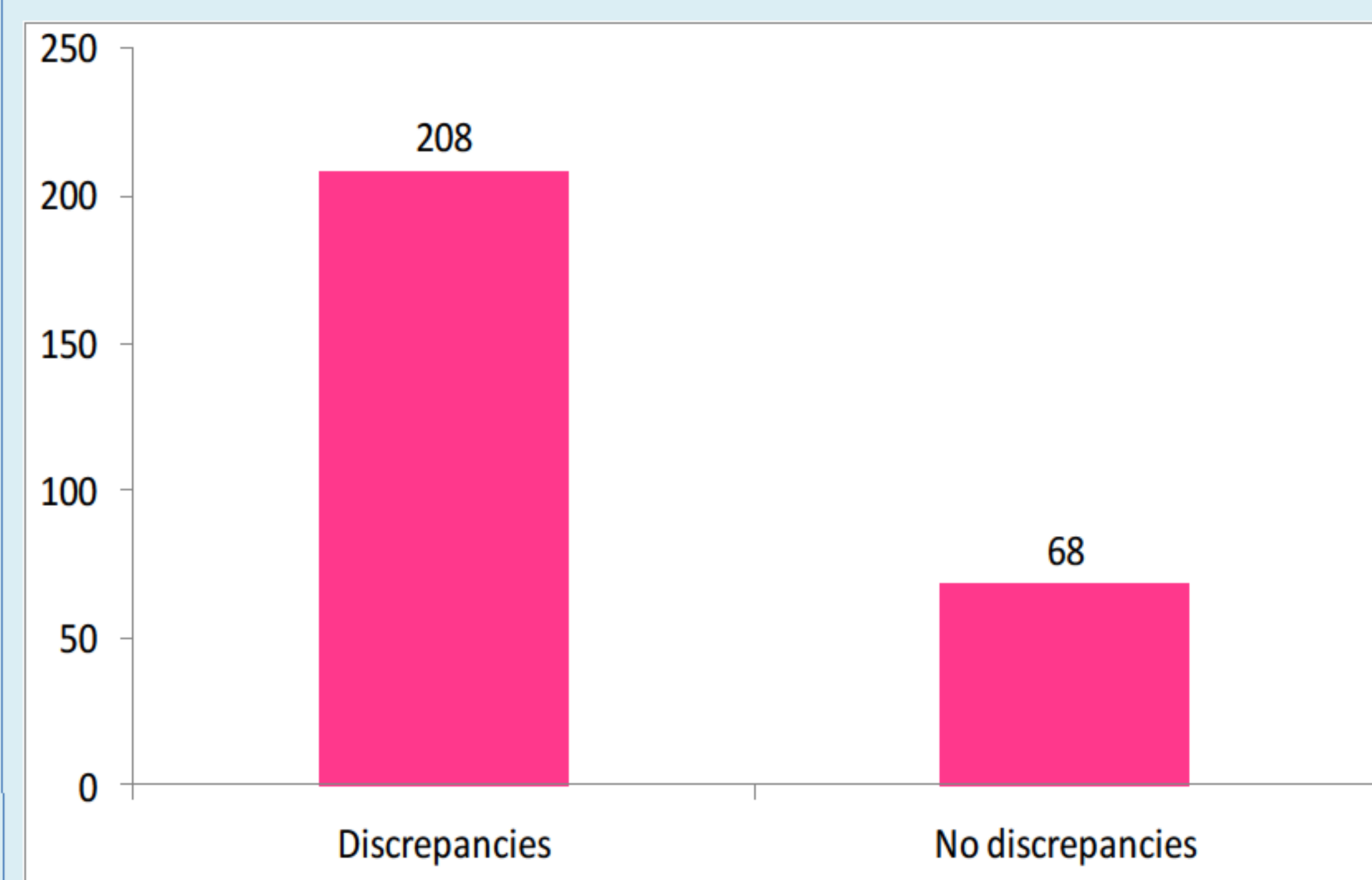
Results

1975 patients were seen over 168 clinics

Patient compliance with instructions



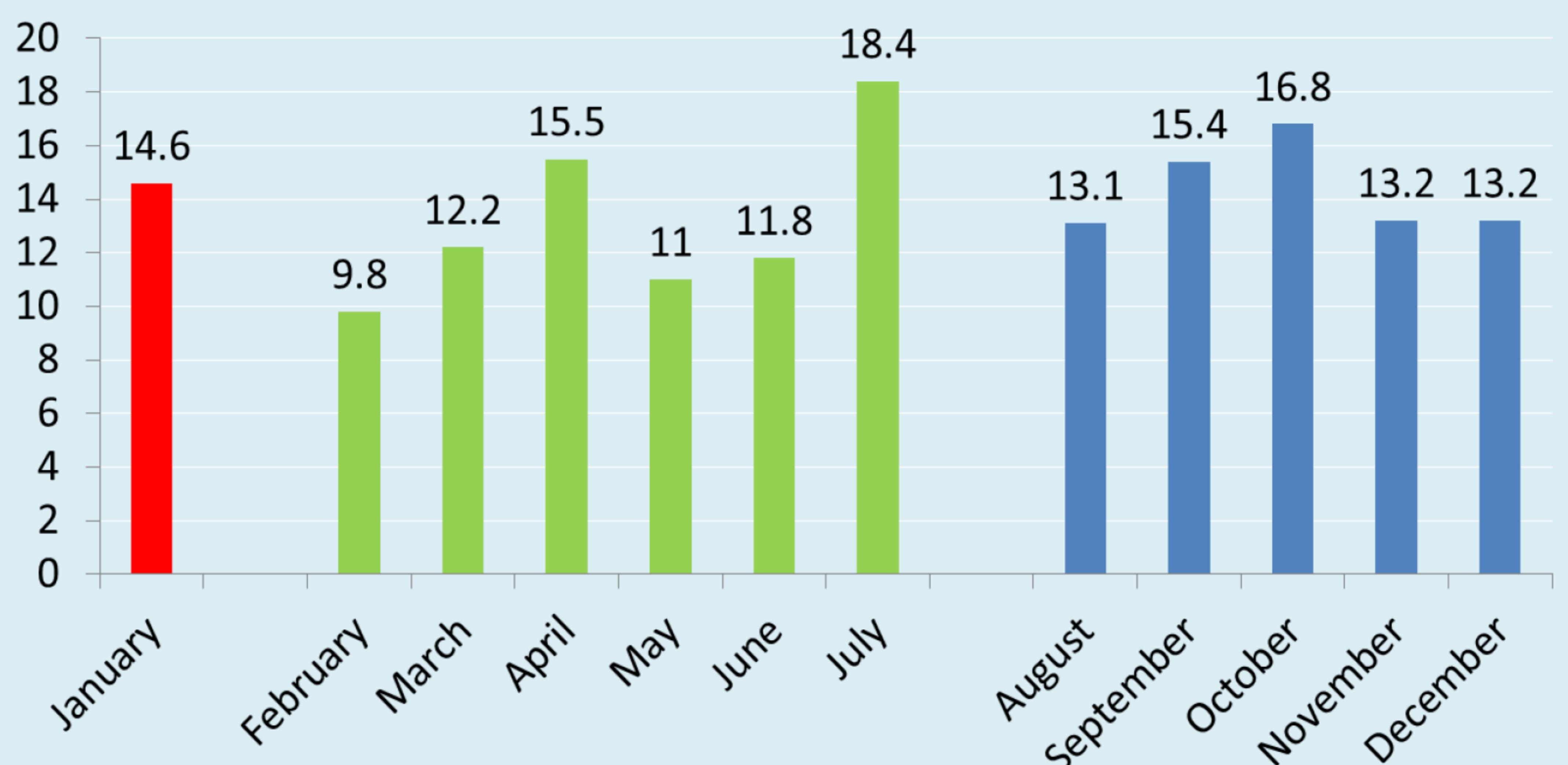
Of those who did not have an accurate list, 75.4% had a prescription discrepancy identified



There was an average of 2.4 discrepancies per patient identified

Interventions

Patients who failed to bring/recall list (%)



Discussion

- Only 57% of patients brought a prescription list as requested
- A further 29% were able to accurately recall their medications
- Simple interventions (changing the wording and format of the clinic invite letter) did not make a difference
- Of those who brought no list or could not recall their medications, 2.4 discrepancies per person were found

Solutions

- Smart card access to GP records for all health care professionals
 - Limited by access in clinics
 - Doesn't give information on compliance
- Text message reminders to bring a prescription list

