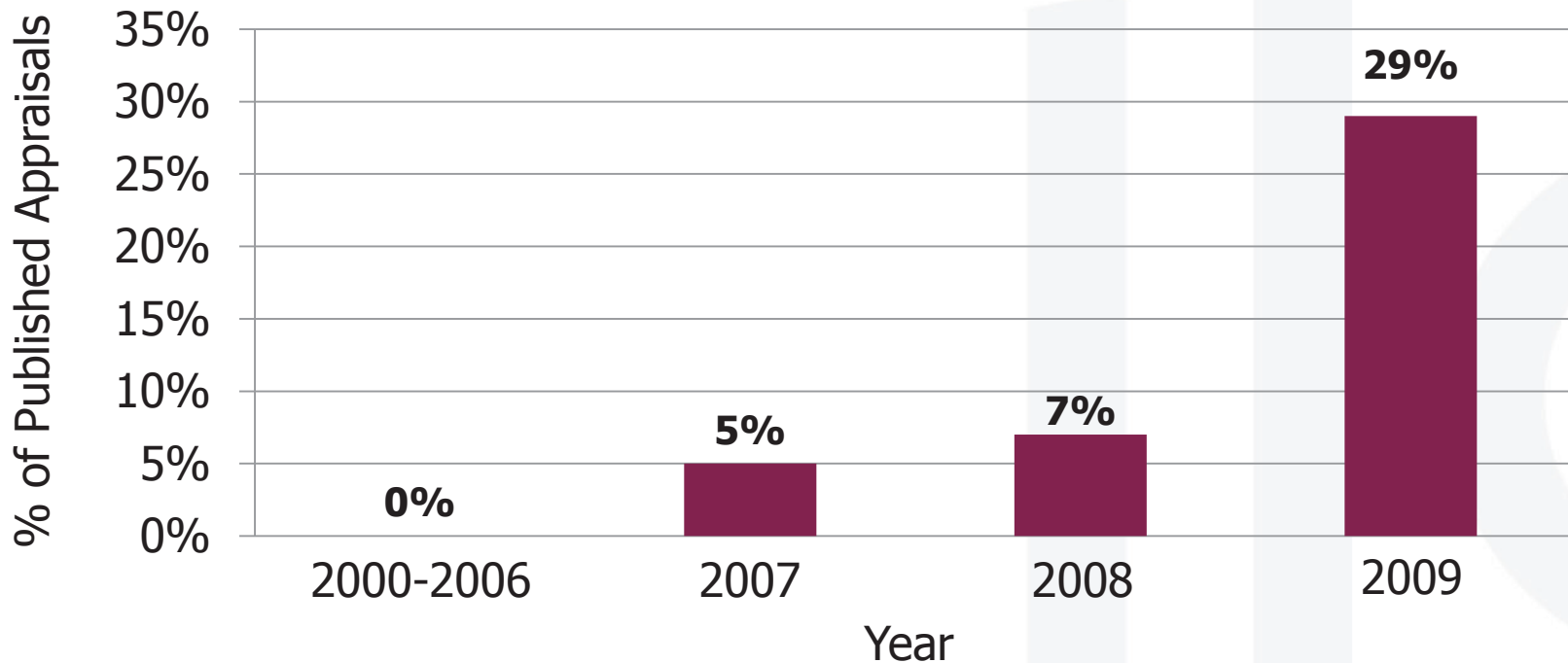


Do Patient Access Schemes Result in an Acceptable Administrative Burden?

Haynes S, Costello S, Kusel J, Hamer N, Brooks-Rooney C, Timm B
Costello Medical Consulting, UK

An Increasing Trend

Positive NICE appraisals that included a Patient Access Scheme (PAS)



“The Department of Health considered that this patient access scheme does not constitute an excessive administrative burden on the NHS”

**Do Patient Access
Schemes Result in an
Acceptable Administrative
Burden?**

Literature searches

- PubMed
- Google
- Google Scholar

NHS statistics

Patient Access
Scheme Liaison
Unit (PASLU)

Real-life opinion

Pilot study
distributed to
pharmacists

The Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) 2009:

- Recommendations for achieving the greatest possible mutual benefit from pharmaceutical products
- Categorically states that:

“These schemes [PAS] should therefore be the exception rather than the rule”

- Some of the key principles of the PPRS focus on the administrative burden of PAS:
 - States that any scheme **must be operationally manageable for the NHS**, including frontline staff, without unduly complex monitoring or additional bureaucracy

Patient Access Scheme Liaison Unit (PASLU):

- Established in 2009
- Evaluates the feasibility of PAS
 - reviews PAS in line with the PPRS 2009
 - expert panel – **opportunity for clinical/pharmaceutical opinion to be included**
- Freedom of information requests:
Currently no collated data on the administration of PAS
(plans to collate this data in the future)

Pilot Study: Questionnaire

Aim:

To provide a preliminary assessment of the real-life administrative burden of PAS

Methods:

- Questionnaire was developed to cover aspects of PAS administration:
 - short answer questions
 - Likert scales (1-5)
 - space for additional comments
- Distributed to the 19 Chief Pharmacists listed in the Directory of Chief Pharmacists in Wales (via e-mail and telephone follow up)

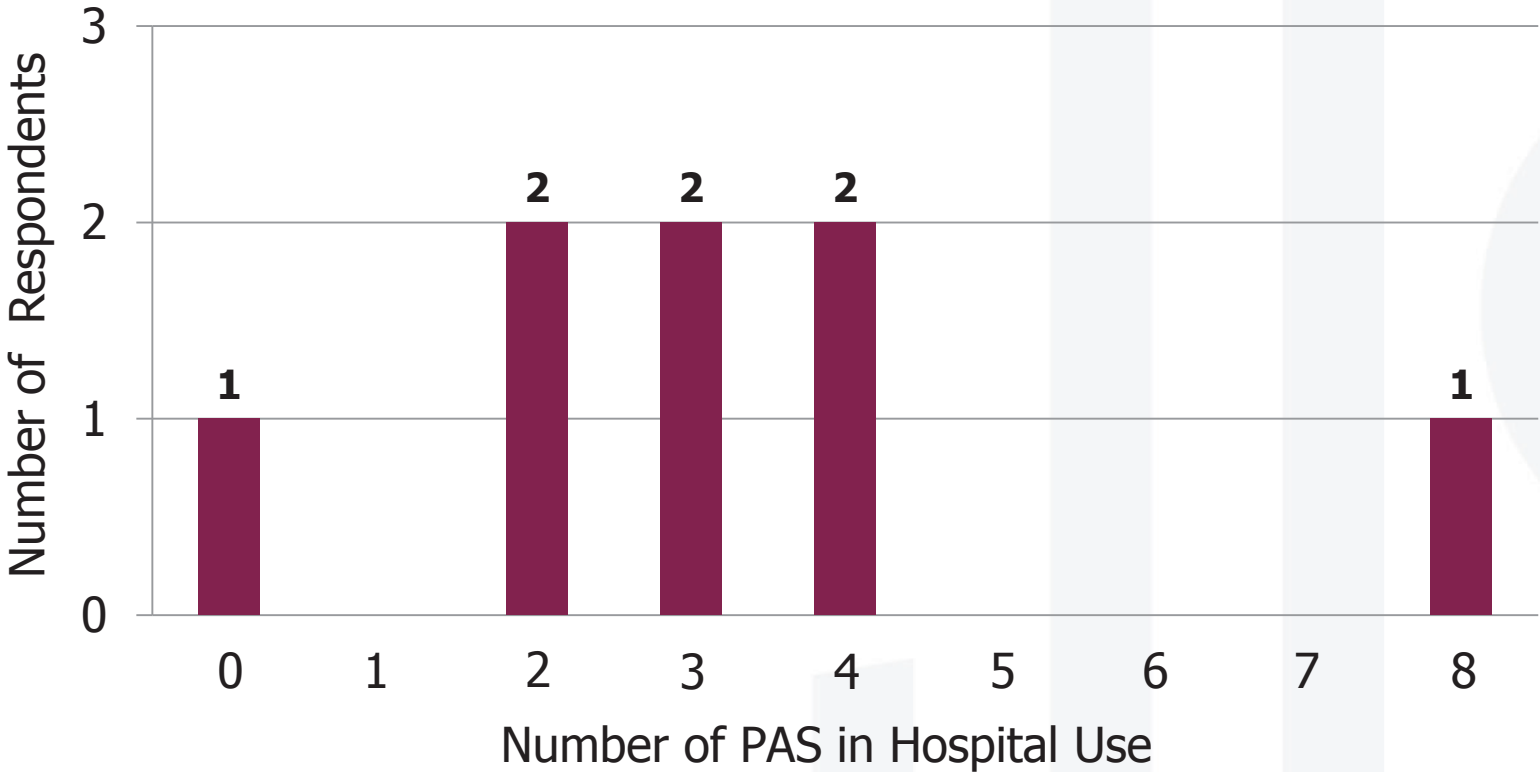
Response:

Of the 19 Chief Pharmacists who were contacted:

- 3 did not feel able to respond (based on their clinical experience)
- **8 responses were received (42% useful response rate)**

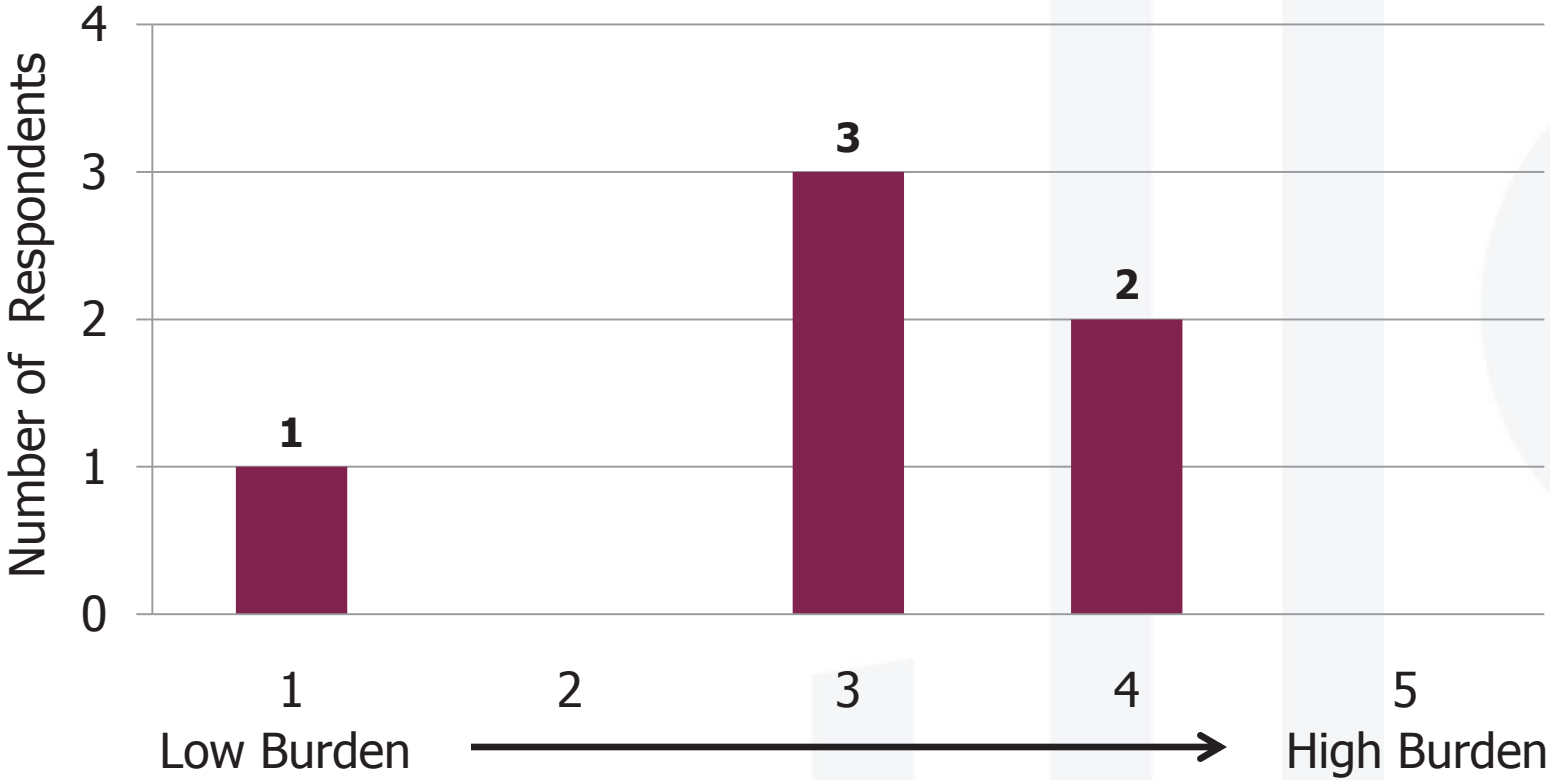
Key Results

Number of PAS currently in use in the respondents' hospitals



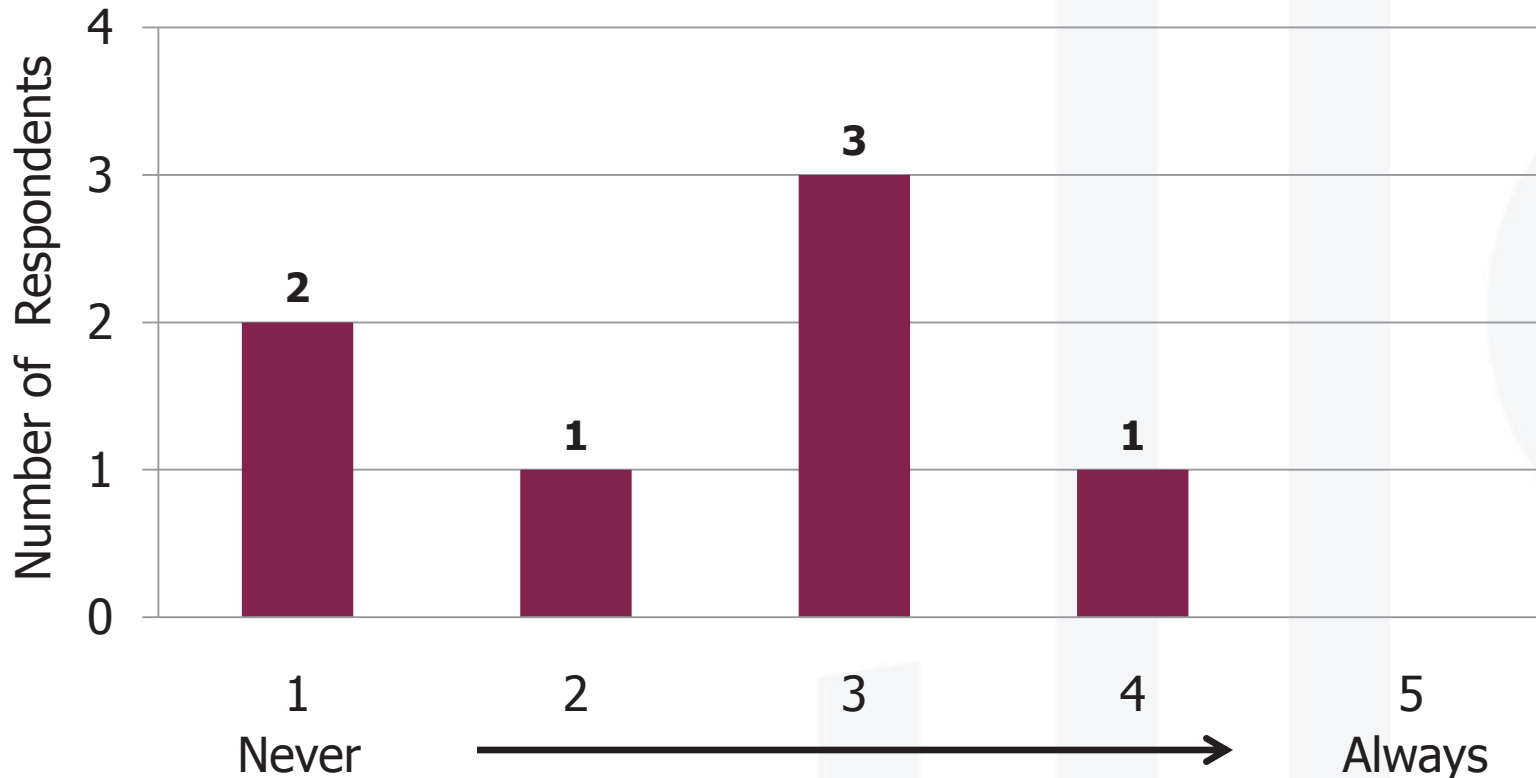
Key Results

How would you rate the total administrative burden of the PAS you work with?



Key Results

Do you feel that the administrative burden of a prospective PAS is accurately represented during the appraisal process?



Do you feel that the administrative burden of a prospective PAS is accurately represented during the appraisal process?

“It is always **assumed** that pharmacists will administer these schemes but the time required is burdensome and there is no financial support for this extra time”

“Doubt the NHS burden is considered by pharmaceutical companies”

Do you feel that PAS are a good use of staff time?

- Yes – 0 respondents
- No – 3 respondents**
- Mixed Opinions – 4 respondents**

- Depends on the scheme
- Good **if used sparingly**
- Understanding of current economic climate

Do you feel that your department has the capacity to manage additional PAS?

- Yes – 2 respondents
- No – 4 respondents**
- Undecided – 1 respondent

- 2 of these respondents specifically cited **staff time limitations** as their limiting factor

What developments would improve the administrative burden associated with PAS?

“**Register at outset** and make a single claim when applicable”

“Schemes should reflect ... **real life** and **consider more of the patient population**”

“Any scheme where the **discount is up front** – that **does not require monitoring** during treatment and **retrospective** claims - would be ideal”

Author Conclusions:

PAS are an **important part of the modern NHS**, improving access to effective treatments

Encouraging steps have been taken to recognise the burden of PAS on the NHS; however, **further research is required** to assess whether these recent developments are **meaningful in every-day practice**

Additional support and education must also be provided to facilitate effective PAS implementation

Future perspectives:

- Repeat study at a later date
- Larger study would be more insightful
- Perspective of other countries

Thank-You

With special thanks to:

- The Chief Pharmacists of Wales
- PASLU
- Costello Medical Consulting