

# IMPLEMENTING SERIAL PRESCRIBING IN A WEST LOTHIAN CARE HOME

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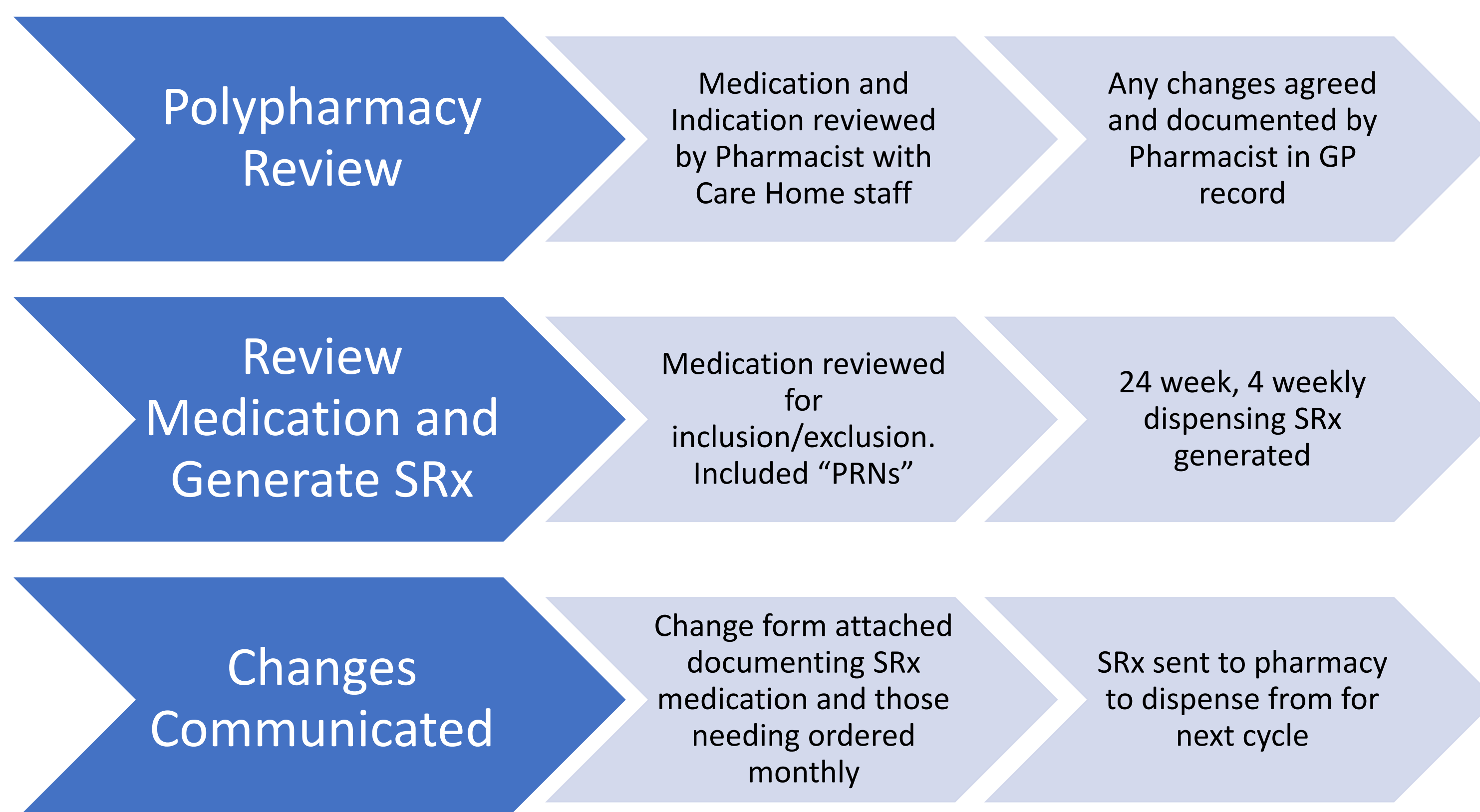
## Background

- National pilot expansion including West Lothian Primary Care Team trialling Serial Prescriptions (SRx) in Care Home setting<sup>1</sup>
- Significant time taken by care home, GP and pharmacy staff to process medication orders.
- A Serial Prescription is a prescription that can be supplied which is valid for up to 56 weeks and dispensed in defined intervals- without the need to reorder each month.
- SRx have been proven to reduce workload in GP and Pharmacy setting- implementing in care home setting could reduce number of prescriptions to be ordered monthly.
- Care Home residents more likely to have high levels of polypharmacy and co-morbidity.<sup>2</sup>
- Undertaking polypharmacy reviews as part of switching process could improve quality of pharmaceutical care for the care home residents.

## Objectives

- Implement the roll out of 24-week SRx for suitable medications for Care Home Residents in 3 phases.
- Ensure care home residents receive a polypharmacy review.
- Improve communication between care home, GP practice and pharmacy

## Methods



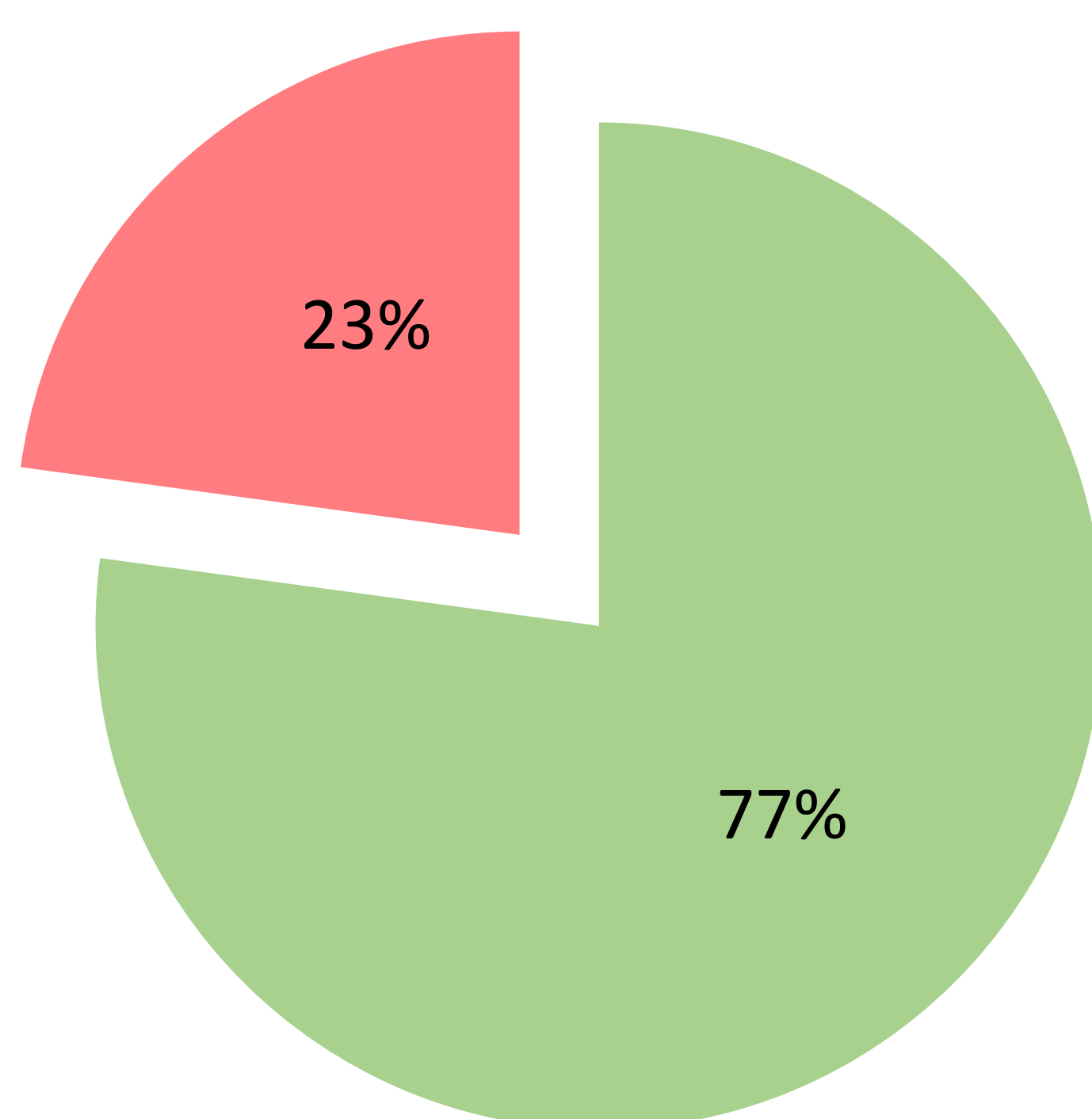
### Improving Communication

- **Change form:**  
Set up to document medication changes. Digital copy saved in GP notes. Printed copy issued for care home/pharmacy to ensure clear communication and continuity of care.
- **Communication Form:**  
Agreement between pharmacy and care home to allow care home staff to order "PRNs" from pharmacy via secure email. Communication form set up to facilitate this.
- **Alert on File**  
Alert added to patient file so all GP staff aware care home resident involved in SRx pilot, to complete change form if any medication changes and to let practice pharmacy team know.

## Results and Discussion

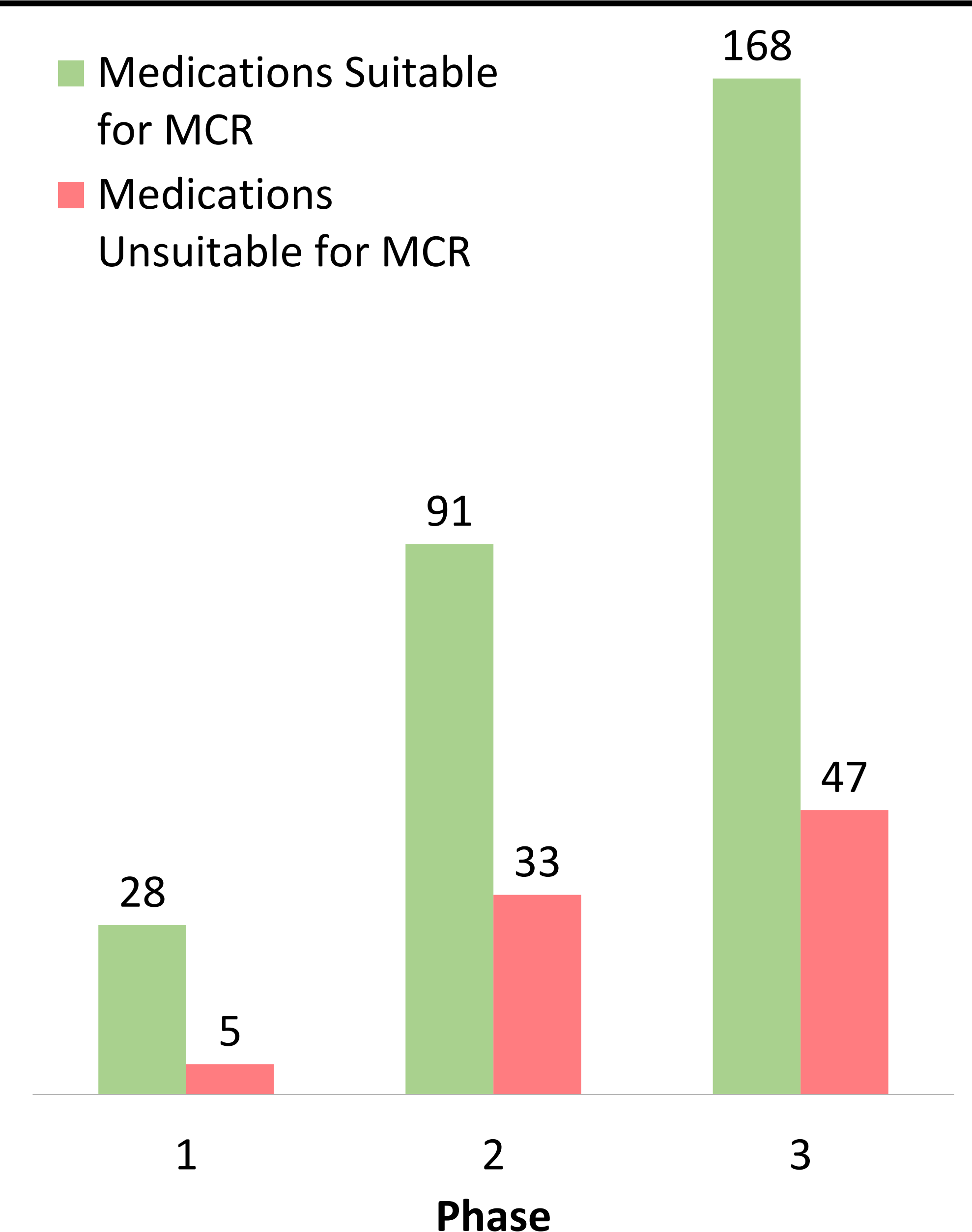
### Total Care Home Medications

- Medications Suitable for MCR
- Medications Unsuitable for MCR



- 57 residents  
417 medications reviewed  
91 medications stopped  
31 medications changed
- 287 medications suitable for MCR  
85 unsuitable for MCR
- 77% of medications on a serial prescription  
23% medications remaining on repeat
- Reasons for medications remaining on repeat:
  - Excluded medications- e.g. Diazepam, Lorazepam, high risk medications
  - Recent medication change e.g. Trialling reduced dose of medication
  - Miscellaneous items not ordered routinely- e.g. dressings, stoma products

- Medications Suitable for MCR
- Medications Unsuitable for MCR



## Conclusion

Significant reduction in ordering for care home and GP staff with 77% of medications suitable for SRx, resulting in time saving for all involved. Reducing polypharmacy with medication review, improving pharmaceutical care to Care Home Residents. Improved continuity of care and communication between GP practice, care home and pharmacy.

### References

1. Scottish Care, Latest News-Serial Prescribing in Care Homes (Internet). Available from: [Serial Prescribing in Care Homes - Scottish Care](#)
2. Scottish Government, Review of NHS Pharmaceutical Care of Patients in the Community in Scotland, Dr Hamish Wilson and Professor Nick Barber, (Internet). Available from [Review of NHS Pharmaceutical Care of Patients in the Community in Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)