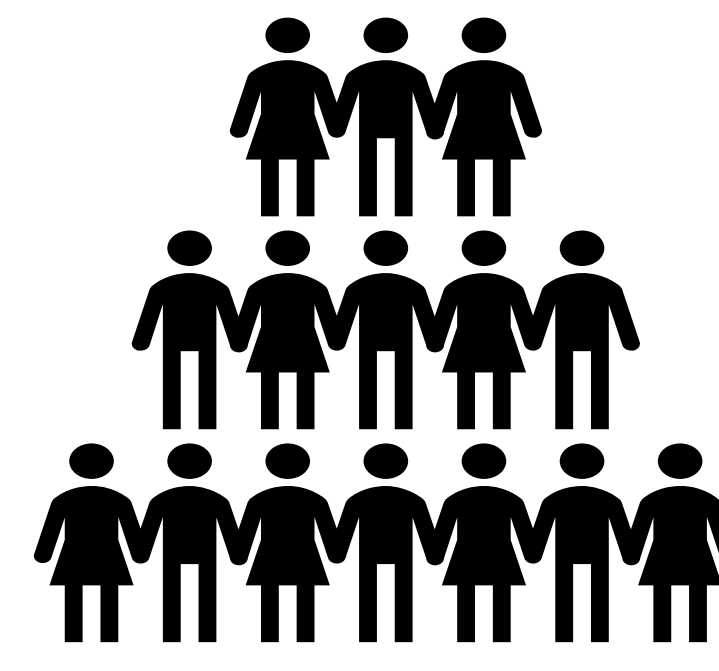


## Attitude and needs of the community pharmacists in Abu-Dhabi Emirates about administering Flu and COVID vaccine

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<https://freevectormaps.com/untied-arab-emirates/AE-475-02-60017ofrdr/>

### Introduction/Objectives

A rising number of countries have been enlarging the role of pharmacists to offer vaccination services, which magnified vaccination access and rates. Currently the Department of Health in Abu- Dhabi is proposing and piloting changing the paradigm of community pharmacists in Abu -Dhabi role to include administering both Flu and COVID vaccine to the public.

**Aims & Objectives:** The aim of this study is to explore and assess the needs, attitudes of the community pharmacists in Abu Dhabi about administering Flu and COVID vaccine and exploring their perceived challenges and enablers.

### Methodology

A cross-sectional study design had been adopted using a validated questionnaire. Ethical approval was obtained from the Social Research Ethics Committee, We obtained the sampling frame of all the community pharmacies in the Emirates of Abu-Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates. Cluster sampling were employed by selecting community pharmacies from main geographical areas in Abu Dhabi Emirates ( Al-Ain , Eastern region, Mussafah , Abu Dhabi city, industrial region ,Wagan and Mazyed).

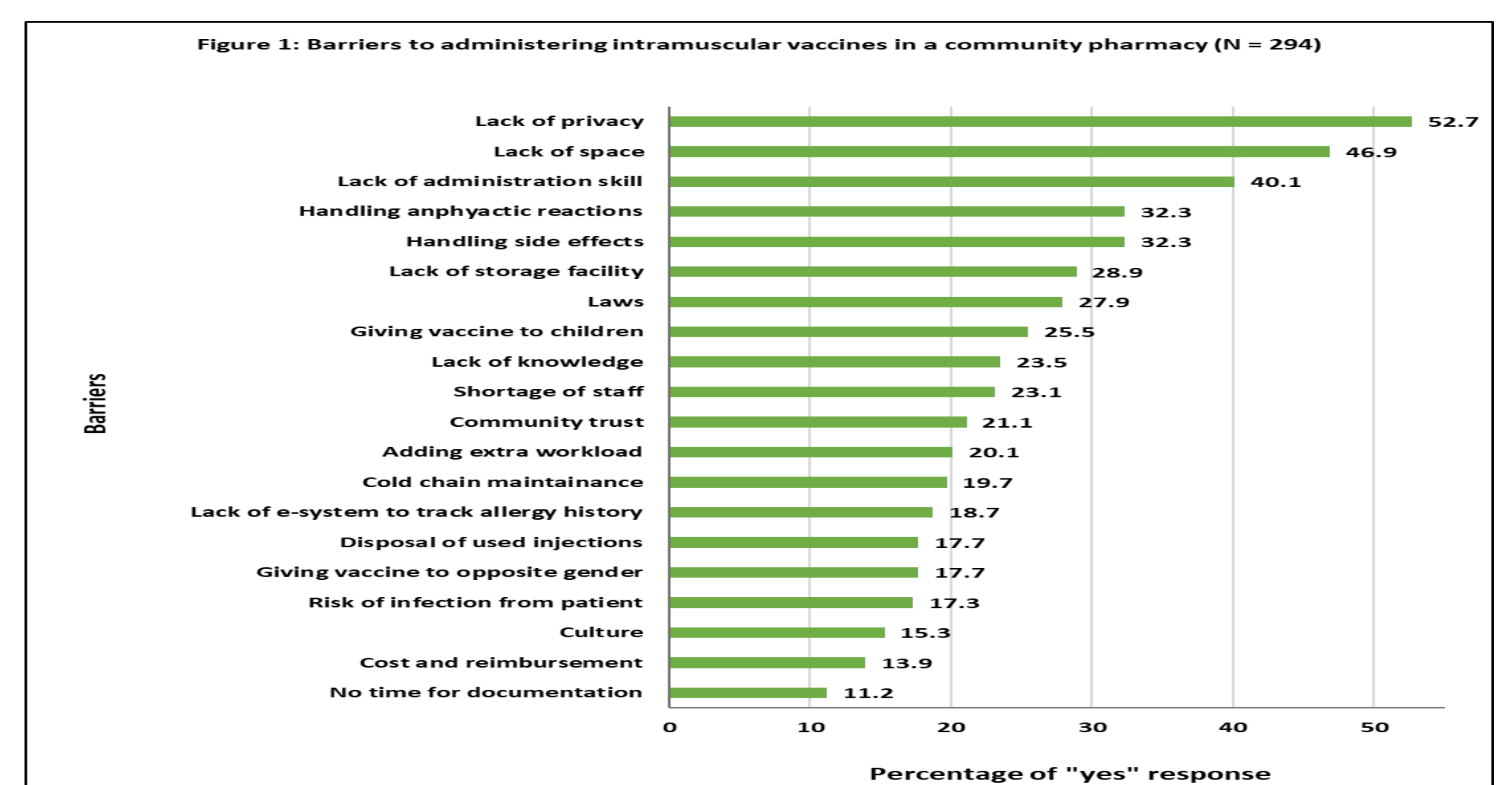
The community pharmacies were visited onsite. The purpose of this study had been explained, and they were asked to sign the consent form before taking the survey. UAE University. Binary and multiple binary logistic regression model was used to identify factors associated with the willingness of the respondents to provide vaccine services. IBM SPSS was used for the analysis.

### Results

The majority of the respondents were female (58.8%), married (58.9%), non-Emiratis (90.4%), and had more than five years of work experience (53.8%), in which at least one year working in the UAE (80.2%). The majority agreed that pharmacy students must be trained to administer vaccines and it should be part of the curriculum (81.0%). On the other hand, 82.2% of participants doubt the ability of their pharmacy to arrange a space for the administration of the vaccines. Having experience in administering subcutaneous (AOR=4.12, 95% CI=1.06-16.81, P=0.045), having the belief that students should be trained (AOR=18.88, 95% CI=9.00-39.58, P<0.001) were significantly associated with willingness to administer vaccines after adjusting for confounders. Barriers to administering IM vaccine are presented in figure1.

#### 1: Survey response summary: Attitude and willingness (N=294)

Items	Responses		
	Yes n (%)	Neutral n (%)	No n (%)
agree that pharmacy students must be trained to administer vaccines and it be part of the curriculum?	238 (81.0)	37 (12.6)	19 (6.5)
agree that pharmacists could administer vaccines (in general) in a community pharmacy?	217 (74.1)	45 (15.4)	31 (10.6)
agree that pharmacy technicians could administer vaccines (in general) in a community pharmacy?	153 (52.4)	65 (22.3)	74 (25.3)
agree that pharmacists/pharmacy technicians could safely administer well-timed vaccines in a community pharmacy?	214 (72.8)	45 (15.3)	35 (11.9)
agree that pharmacists/pharmacy technicians could administer new vaccines (ID-19 vaccine) in a community pharmacy?	205 (70.2)	40 (13.7)	47 (16.1)
think the community pharmacy where you work could arrange a special or the administration of the vaccines by pharmacists/pharmacy technicians?	52 (17.8)	43 (14.7)	197 (67.5)
think the vaccination service provided by the pharmacists / pharmacy technicians should be paid?	104 (35.4)	47 (16.0)	143 (48.6)



### Discussion

While just about half knew how to administer vaccines, the majority of the participants indicated their zeal to learn how to administer the intramuscular vaccine including those that already know how to administer the vaccine. Moreover, about 9 in 10 participants also expressed their interest in learning how to administer subcutaneous vaccines. The most preferred form of training was hands-on. They also preferred that the training has to be certified by an accredited organization. The most preferred items for the training contents include counseling the patient, ensuring the vaccine is appropriate for the patient, training and certification on the hands-on administration of injections, and handling the side effect of vaccine administration or the anaphylactic reactions.

### Conclusion

The explored perspectives and needs of the community pharmacists will help stakeholders to have an evidence-based approach and strategy. Addressing the enablers and challenges will streamline the implementation of such initiative to the seven Emirates of UAE.

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