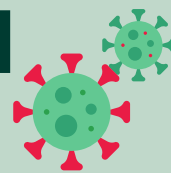


THE BURDEN OF COVID-19 ON PHARMACISTS



Implications on mental and physical health and a way forward

SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 WORLD PHARMACIST'S DAY
#WPD2021

COVID-19 AND THE ROLE OF THE PHARMACIST

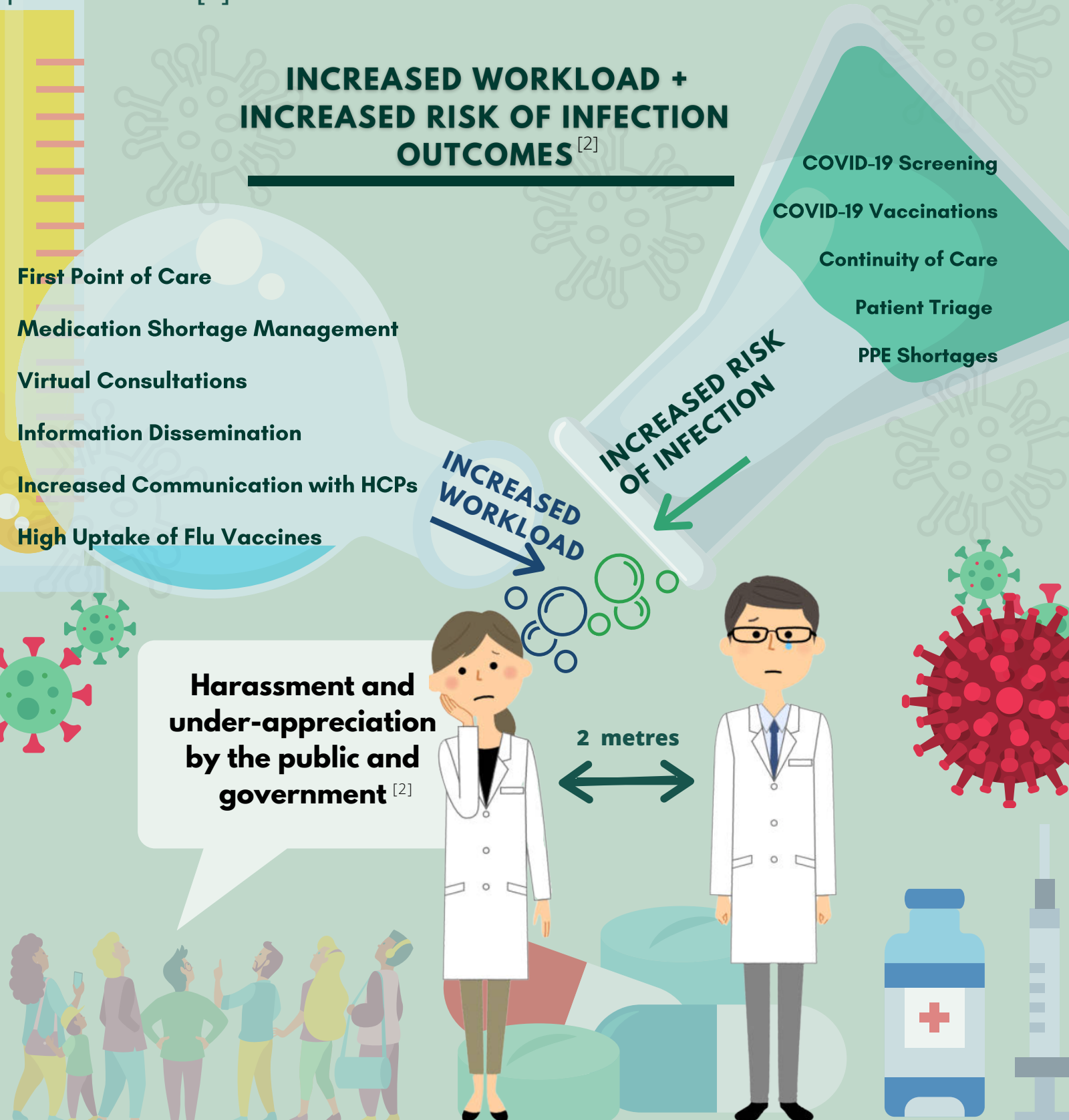
Since the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in December 2019, pharmacists worldwide are playing a key role adopting innovative strategies to minimize the adverse impact of the pandemic.

THE CHANGING ROLE

Pharmacists continue to play key role during the pandemic, acting directly with the community to provide reliable information for preventing, detecting, treating and managing coronavirus infections [1].

NOVEL CHALLENGES

Amidst the rapid shift in the core roles of the pharmacist, this novel context of pharmaceutical care has impacted the experiences of these health professionals [1].



HEALTH PROTECTION STRATEGIES FOR FUTURE PANDEMIC WAVES

Physical & Mental Health Protection

- *Mental health programs*; individual/group stress management workshops, telephone hotlines and targeted media.
- *Managing drug shortages*; standardize drug supply recommendations, target misinformation, increase use of prescription-only-medicines (POMS).^[1]

Workplace Safety

- *Flu vaccine and COVID testing*; optimize PPE supply, increase capacity for remote and in-person appointments.^[1]



Policy and Government

- *Telehealth*; standardize user friendly technology and staff training.
- Fund Canada's National Emergency Strategic Stockpile (NESS).^[1]
- Support domestic PPE suppliers.^[1]

Environmental Controls

- *Collaboration between HCPs*: enable pharmacists to exercise full scope of practice, work with physicians for patient case management.^[1]
- *Work settings*; facilitate shorter shift lengths, reliable support staff, promote single-task focused work ethic.^[1]