

Role of Pharmacists in Vaccination in Low-and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)

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INTRO

- Pharmacists are often a preferred, affordable, trusted, and accessible source of healthcare in communities
- **Extending the role of pharmacists in vaccination can help maintain and expand vaccination coverage, while alleviating health worker shortages**

METHODS

1. Surveyed pharmacists in LMICs about their roles in supporting vaccination
2. Conducted a systematic review of pharmacists' role in vaccination in LMICs

RESULTS

- Immunization training of pharmacists was not mandatory in >90% of LMICs
- Barriers included perceived lack of support from other healthcare providers, lack of financial incentives, and weak legal frameworks

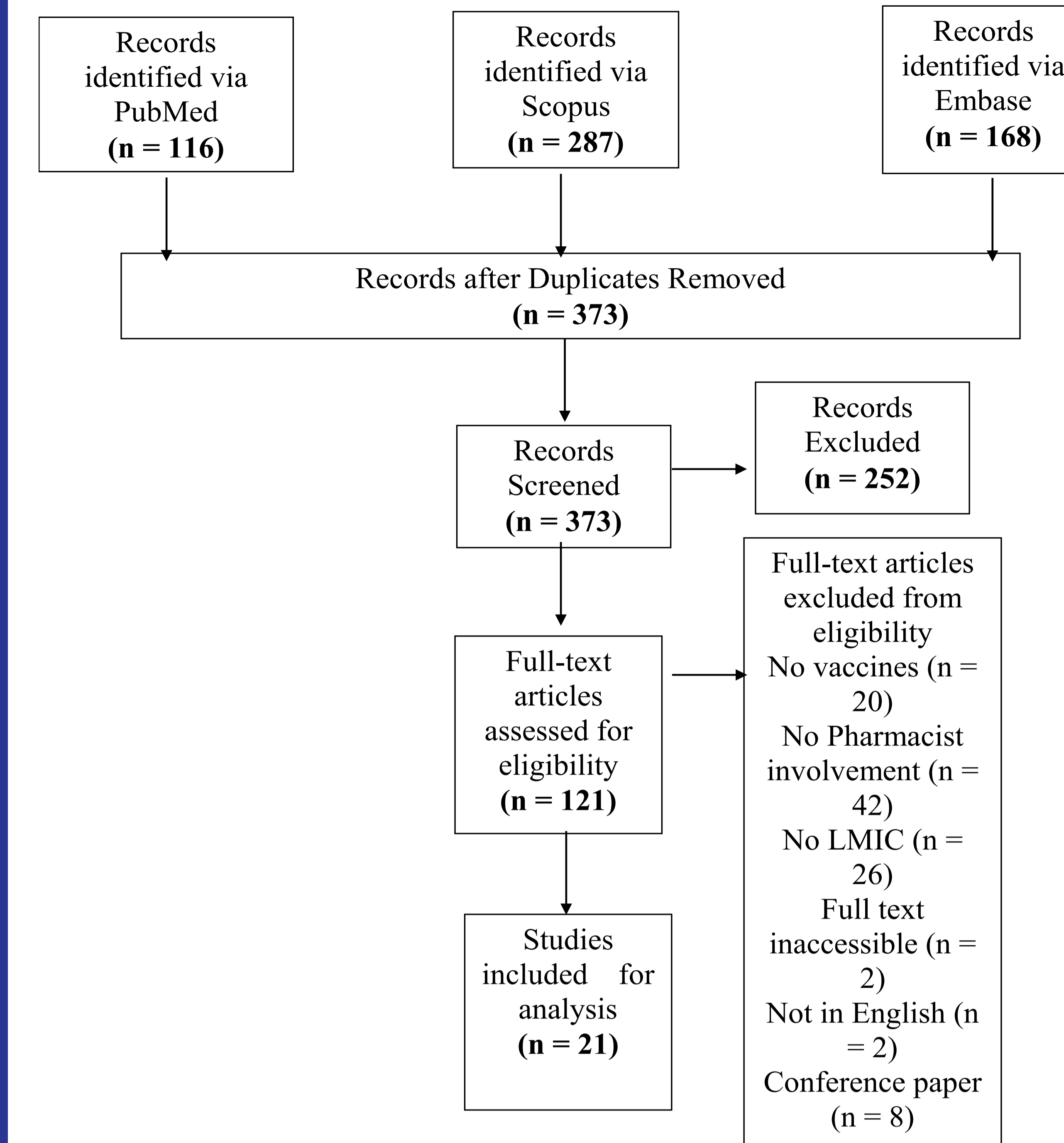
CONCLUSION

- Pharmacists are underutilized in vaccination roles in LMICs

Pharmacists are involved in many types of vaccination roles across LMICs, but are limited by lack of (a) immunization training, (b) support from other healthcare providers, (c) financial incentives, and (d) legal frameworks.



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RESULTS (CONT.)

- N = 255 survey responses representing 55 LMICs; N=21 studies across 11 LMICs identified from literature review
- Pharmacists reported storing vaccines (N=43), educating patients about vaccines (N=23), and organizing immunization campaigns (N=16)
- Pharmacists cannot legally administer vaccines in 75% of LMICs studied
- Other roles include reporting adverse events, informing immunization policies, verifying appropriateness of vaccines, and updating vaccination records

CONCLUSION (CONT.)

- Formal immunization training programs and legal frameworks are needed to expand pharmacist roles in vaccination across LMICs