

Pharmacy Integration into the Fertility Service Line: University Hospitals Specialty Pharmacy

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Introduction

- University Hospitals Specialty Pharmacy (UHSP) is part of an integrated health-system delivery network model within University Hospitals Health System. The University Hospitals Fertility Clinic (UHFC) offers advanced diagnostics and cutting-edge treatment options at two locations in Northeast Ohio.
- Fertility medications are high in cost, limited insurance coverage, require strict adherence, subject to frequent dose changes, self-mixed and administered, have a unique side effect profile, and require specific storage instructions.
- A pharmacist and pharmacy technician embedded in the fertility clinic ensures safe, effective, and appropriate medication utilization by facilitating distribution and providing innovative services and patient education for patients seen by the UHFC.

Methods

- Purpose:** to evaluate the current impact of the integration and to enhance a pharmacy collaborative care model focused on providing comprehensive pharmaceutical care & services, disease state management, and robust specialty pharmacy support.

Creation of Service Line: May 17, 2021

Pharmacy integration into the fertility clinic has been a multi-step process which began with background research, shareholder analysis, and clinician interest.

Pharmacy Technician Integration: August 16, 2021

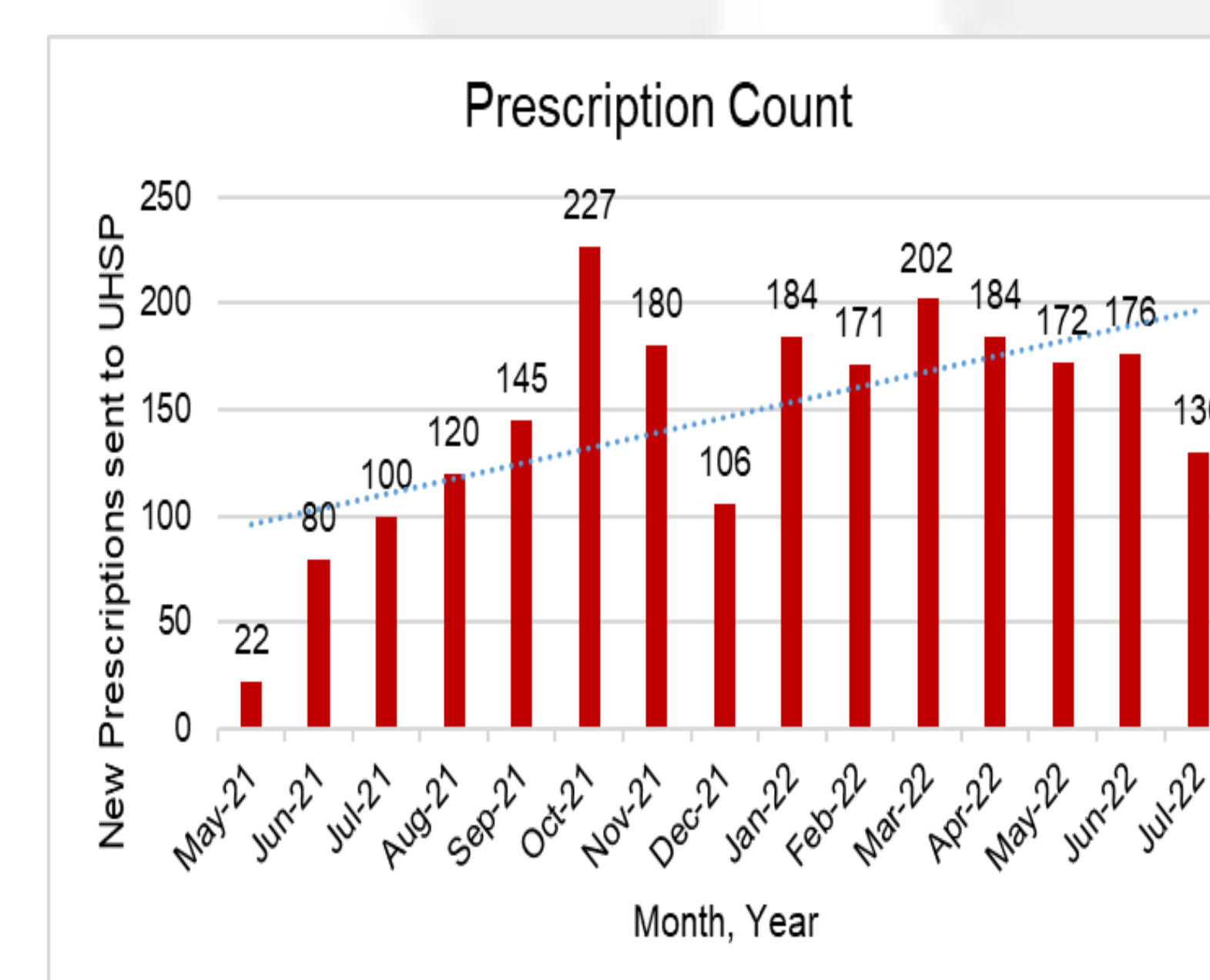
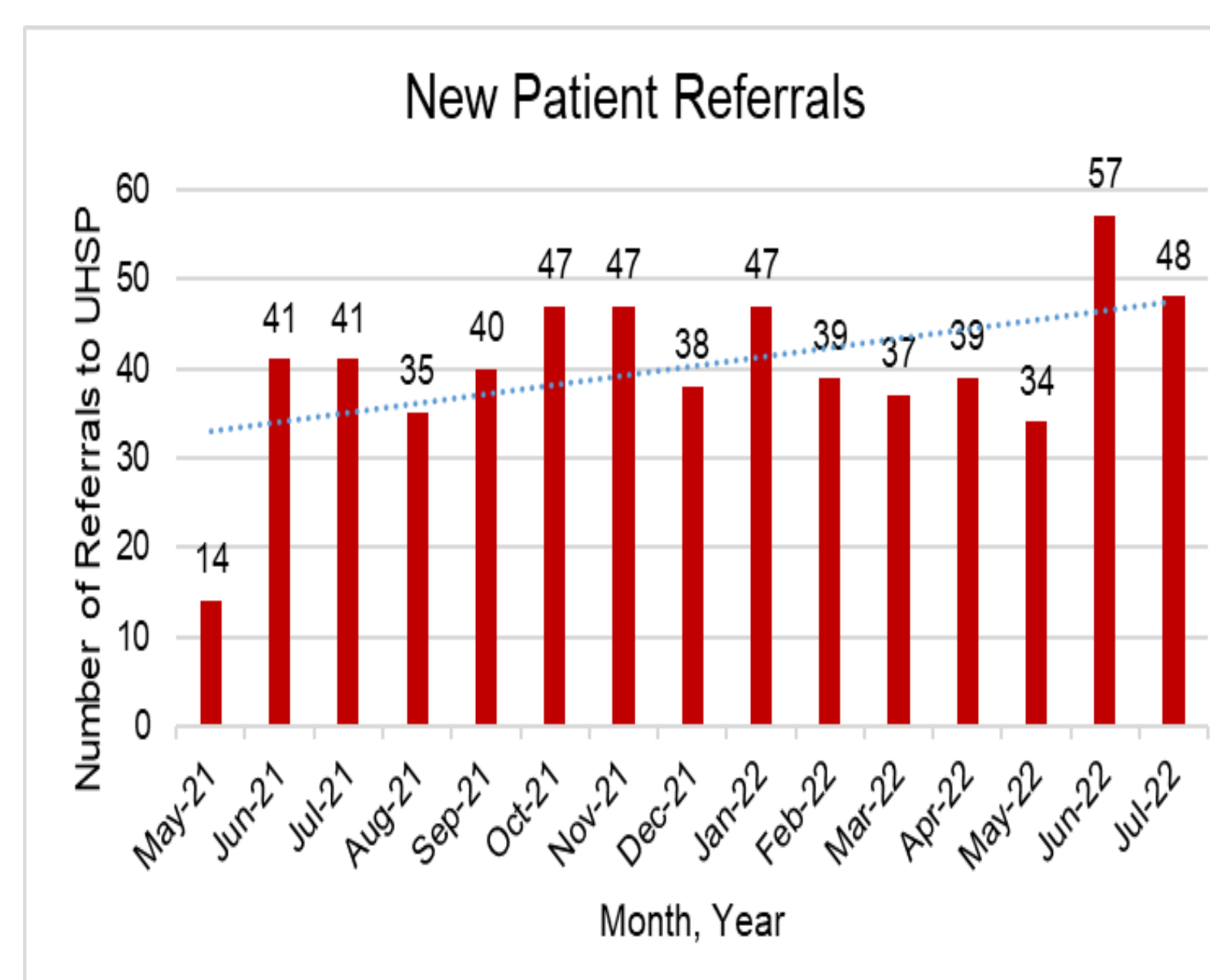
A pharmacy support liaison (PSL) position was created to work primarily with the fertility patient population, provide benefit investigation, prior authorization support, and coordinate patient care.

Pharmacist Integration: March 28, 2022

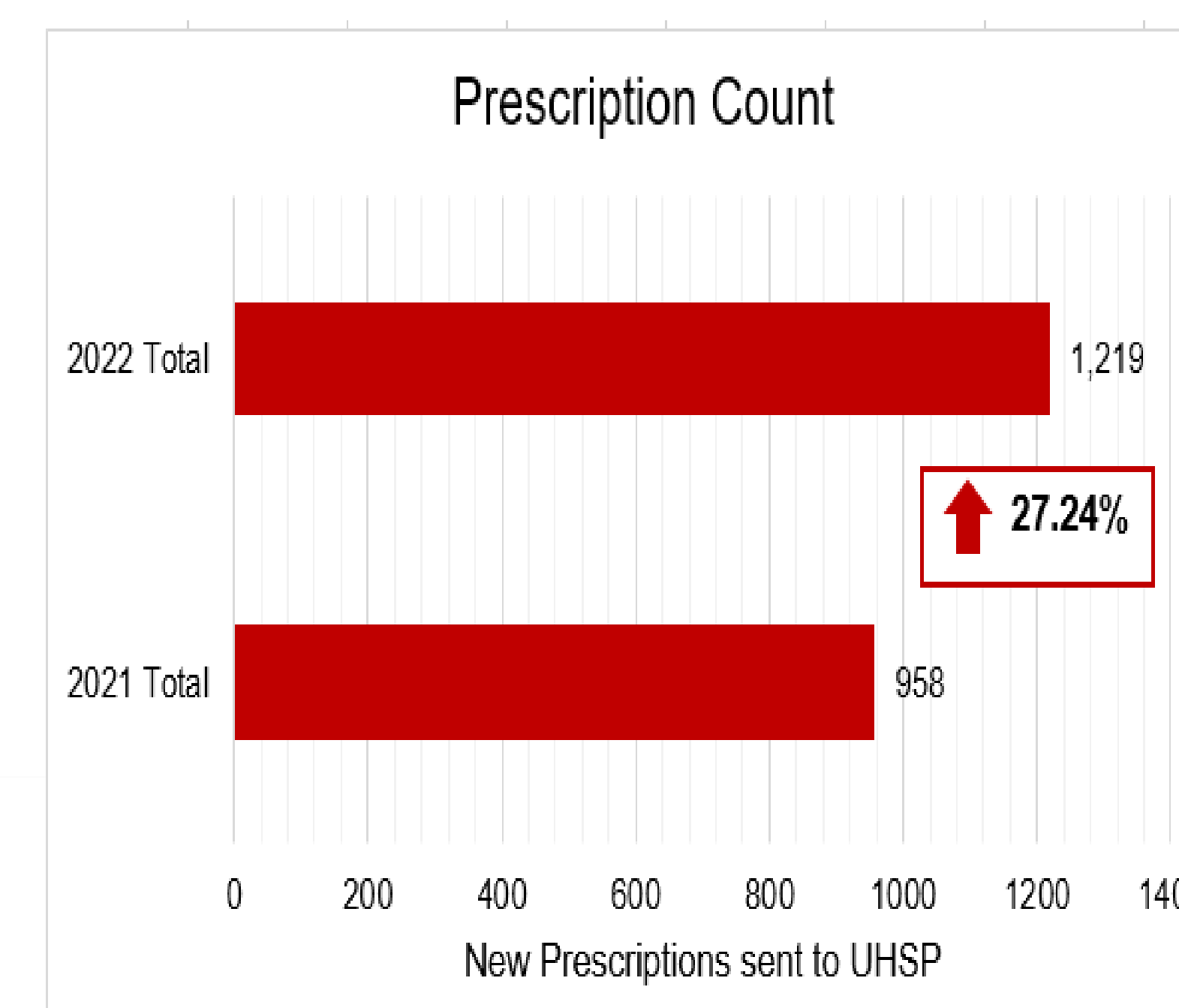
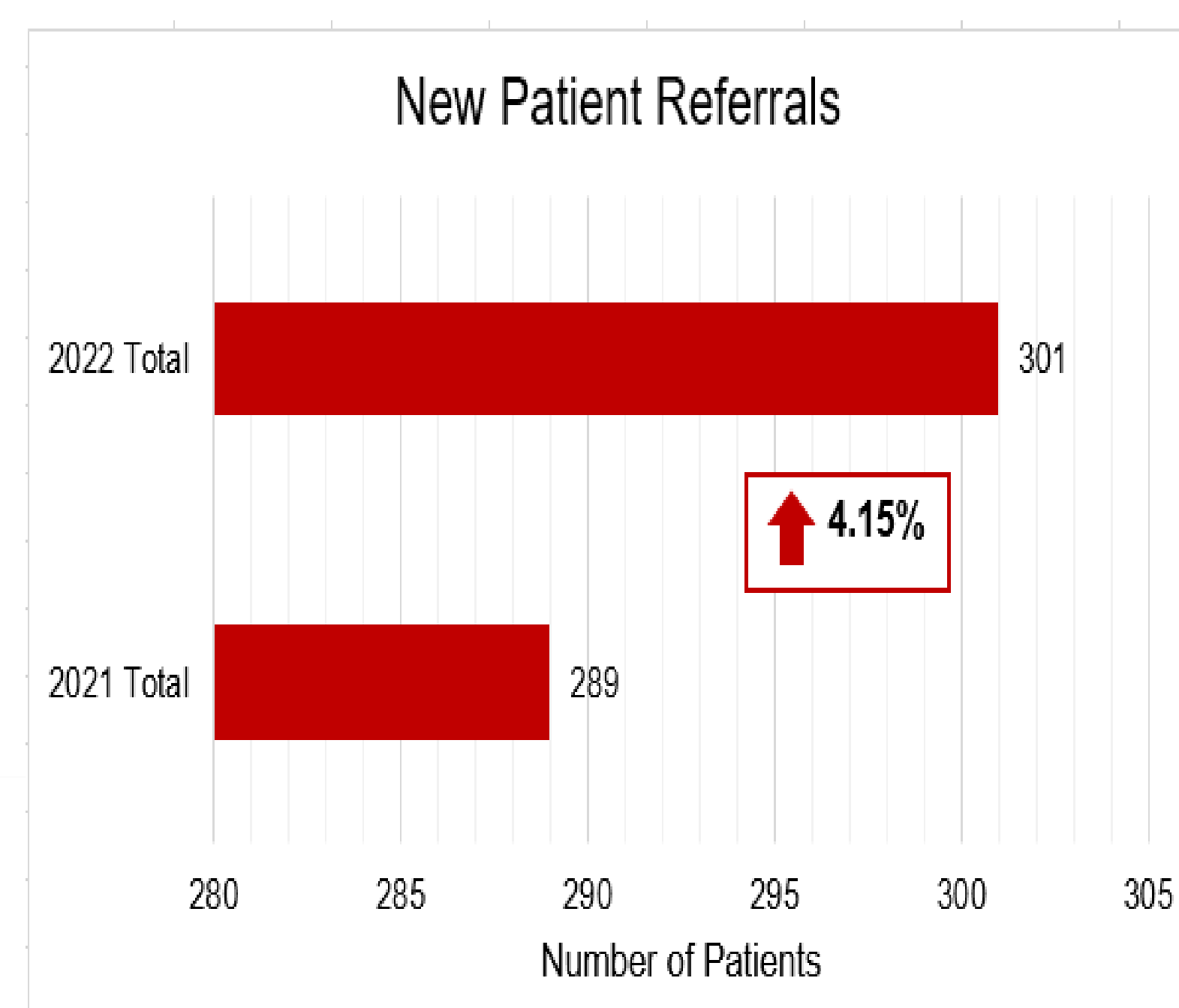
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist is embedded in clinic, participates in daily IVF meeting, follows treatment from start to finish, serves as liaison between clinic and pharmacy, assists with medication access and distribution, developed and implemented patient management program, manages all 3rd party patients (gestational carriers, egg/embryo donors).

Results

- A total of 605 patients were identified as receiving care from the clinical pharmacy specialist or the PSL in the fertility service line from May 17, 2021- July 31, 2022.



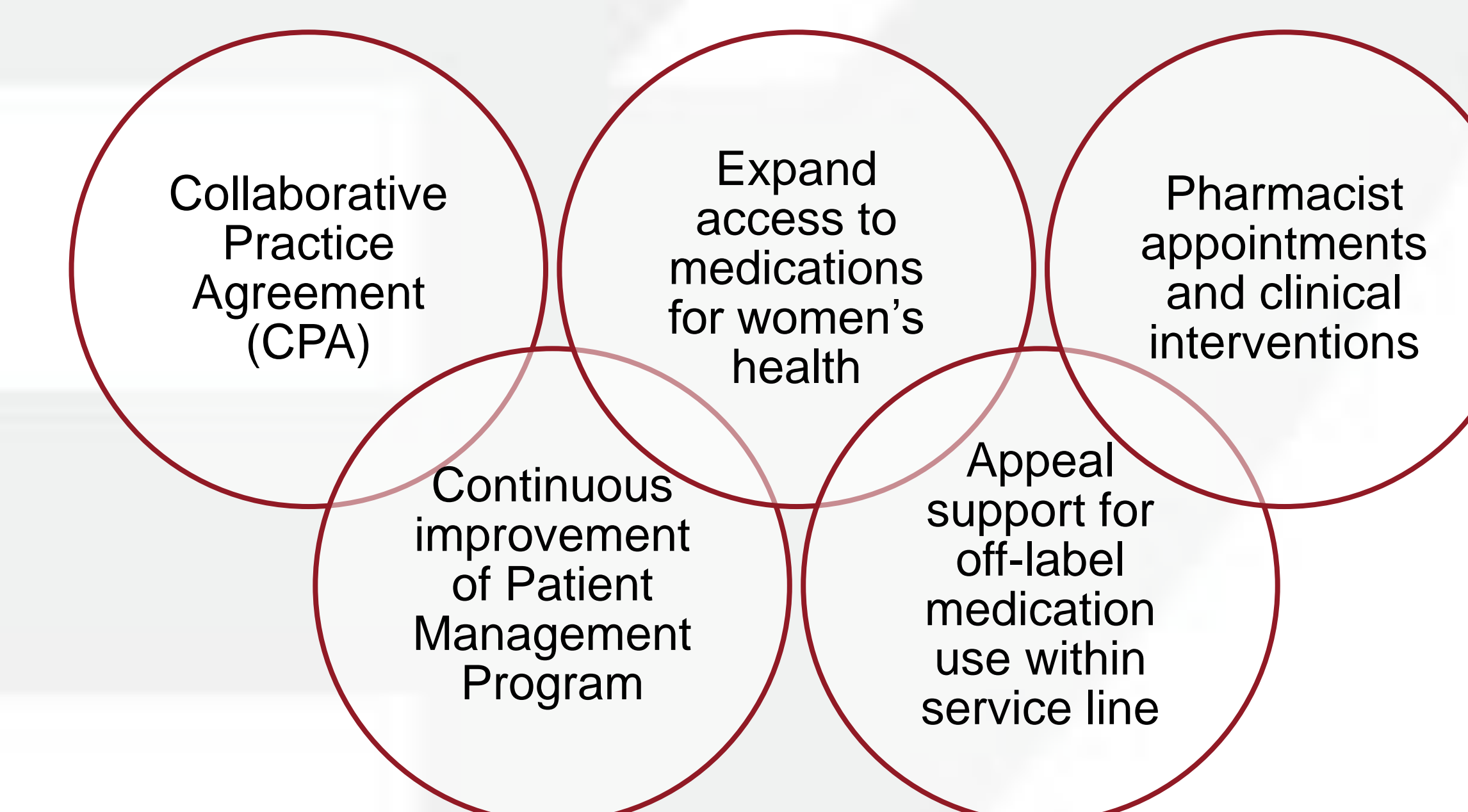
Total IVF Cycles			
Month, Year	Egg Retrievals Completed	Frozen Embryo Transfers Completed	Fresh Embryo Transfers Completed
May 2021	32	29	4
June 2021	33	38	6
July 2021	29	27	3
August 2021	38	34	10
September 2021	46	40	9
October 2021	44	36	4
November 2021	36	52	6
December 2021	5	12	1
January 2022	19	23	4
February 2022	29	28	4
March 2022	34	29	4
April 2022	25	33	3
May 2022	25	30	4
June 2022	29	28	3
July 2022	37	23	1
Total	429	433	62



Conclusions

- There has been a significant increase in both new patient referrals and prescription volume to UHSP since the launch of the service line.
- The value of a clinic based pharmacist in the fertility clinic includes optimizing treatment options and ensuring safe and appropriate medication use to increase successful completion of IVF cycles.
- It is evident there are opportunities for a pharmacist on the multidisciplinary team to improve patient management for those receiving fertility treatment.
- Contributing Factors:**
 - Andrology and Embryology lab closure every December for quality improvement
 - Provider retirement
 - Rolled out service line in phases to ensure patient satisfaction
 - Electronic Medical Record and technology available

Future Opportunities



Disclosure/References

The researchers report no potential or actual conflicts of interest relevant to this poster or research.

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