

Barriers and Solutions to Survivorship Care Plan Completion

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Beth Israel Deaconess Cancer Center

Introduction

- Advances in cancer care have led to a rapidly increasing population of cancer survivors, from 3.6 million in 1975 to 15.5 million in 2016. There will be an estimated 26.1 million survivors in 2040.¹ With this increasing population, care of survivors has become integral.
- A Survivorship Care Plan (SCP) is one approach to care of the cancer survivor. An SCP is a document that patients complete with their oncologist and summarizes a patient's diagnosis, treatment, and recommended followup, as well as provides resources for long-term coping.
- SCPs have been shown to decrease patients' worry, increase patients' desire to make healthy lifestyle changes, and increase contact with primary care physicians.
- The Commission on Cancer has stated that accredited programs will be expected to deliver SCPs to at least 50% of eligible patients by the end of 2018. Over a six month period from April 2018 to September 2018, the SCP completion rate at Beth Israel Deaconess was 36%.

Aim

- To learn more about provider perceptions regarding SCPs and about current barriers to SCP completion at the Beth Israel Deaconess Cancer Center.
- To identify and enact potential solutions that will increase our cancer center's SCP completion rate to greater than 50%.

The Team

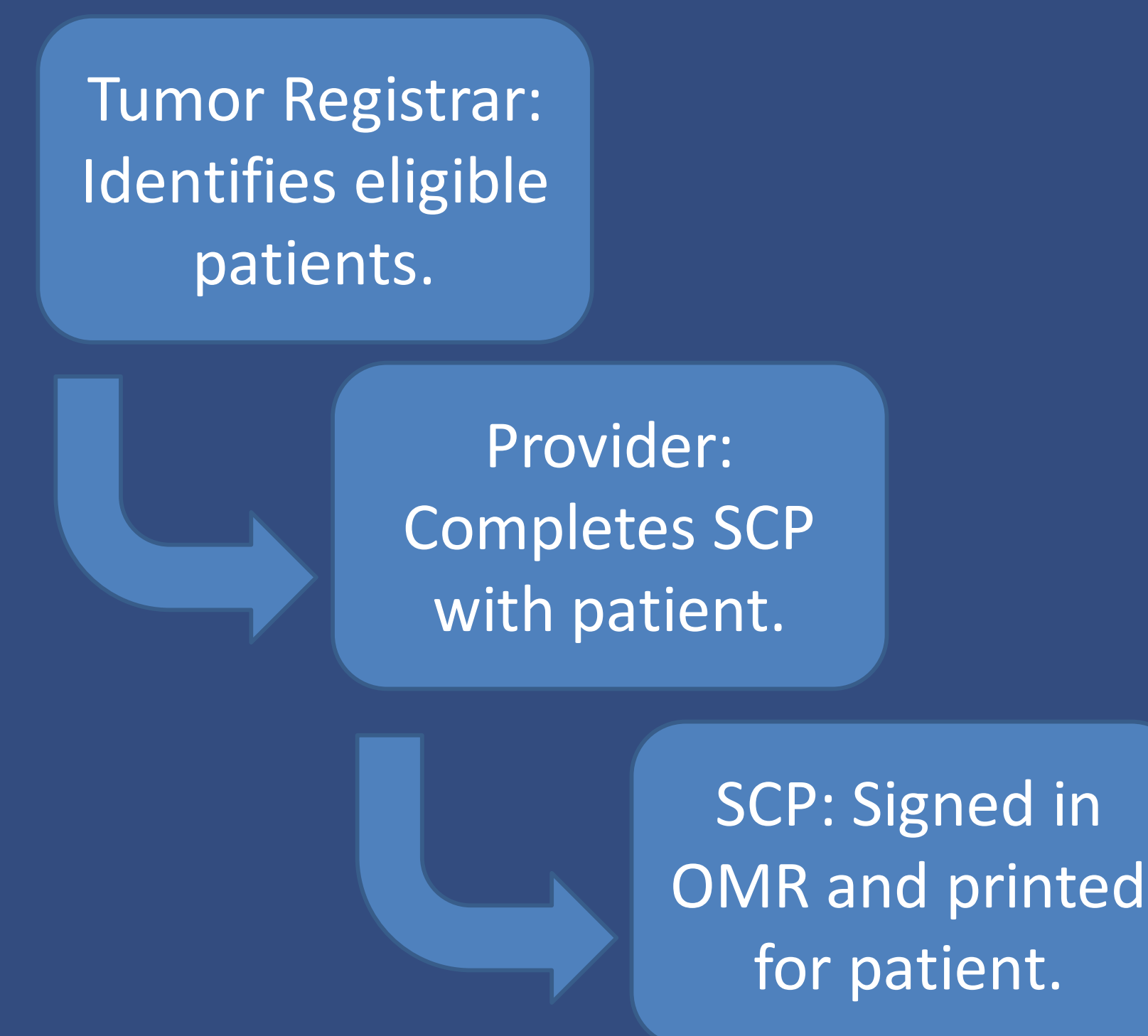
- Project Leaders: Robert Stuver and Jennifer Faig
- Project Mentor: Jessica A. Zerillo
- Team Members: Gerry Abrahamian, Matthew Cadorette, Michael Kent, Irving Kaplan

The Intervention

- We created an online survey to assess perceived barriers to SCP implementation, identify potential solutions, and capture attitudes and beliefs towards survivorship care.
- Our survey was sent to all primary providers within the Medical, Surgical, and Radiation Oncology departments.
- The survey was sent to 178 oncology providers. A total of 74 (41.6%) responded.

Current Survivorship Care Plan Process

A. Current SCP Process



B. Satisfaction With SCP Process

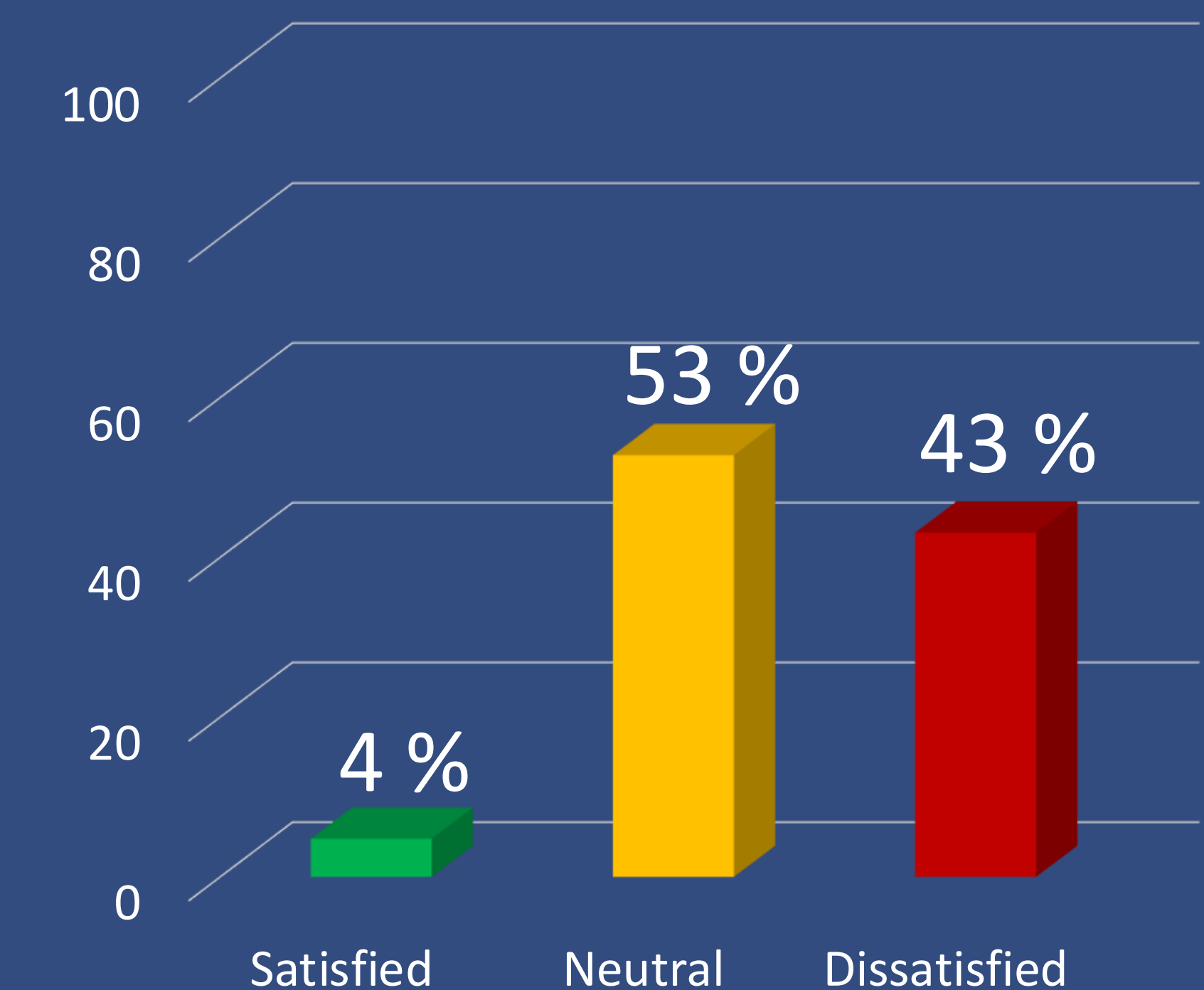
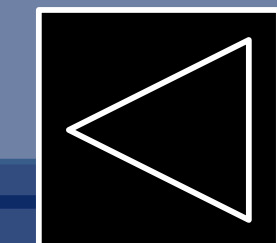


Figure 1. Current SCP Process. The Tumor Registrar identifies eligible patients and notifies providers via e-mail. Providers then complete the SCP at the patient's next visit. Survey respondents were asked their satisfaction with this current SCP process. The majority of respondents were neutral or dissatisfied.

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Barriers to SCP Implementation

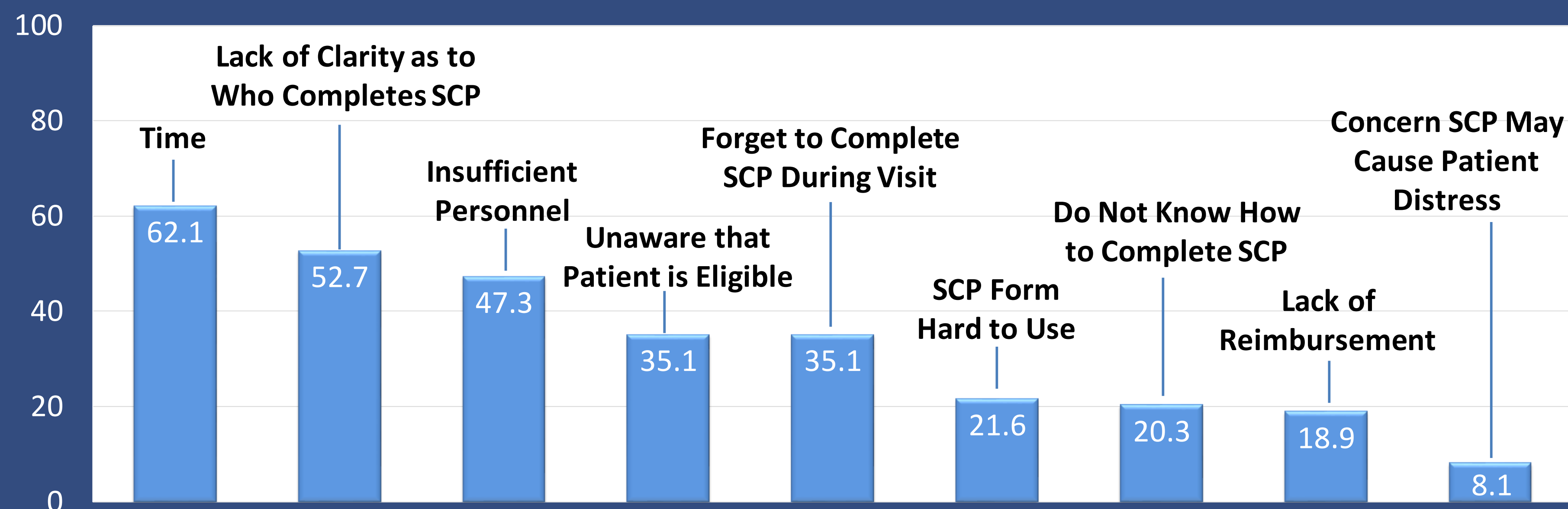


Figure 2. Barriers to SCP Implementation. Respondents were asked what they viewed as current barriers to SCP completion. Time, lack of personnel, and unclear process were identified as the greatest barriers.

Potential Solutions

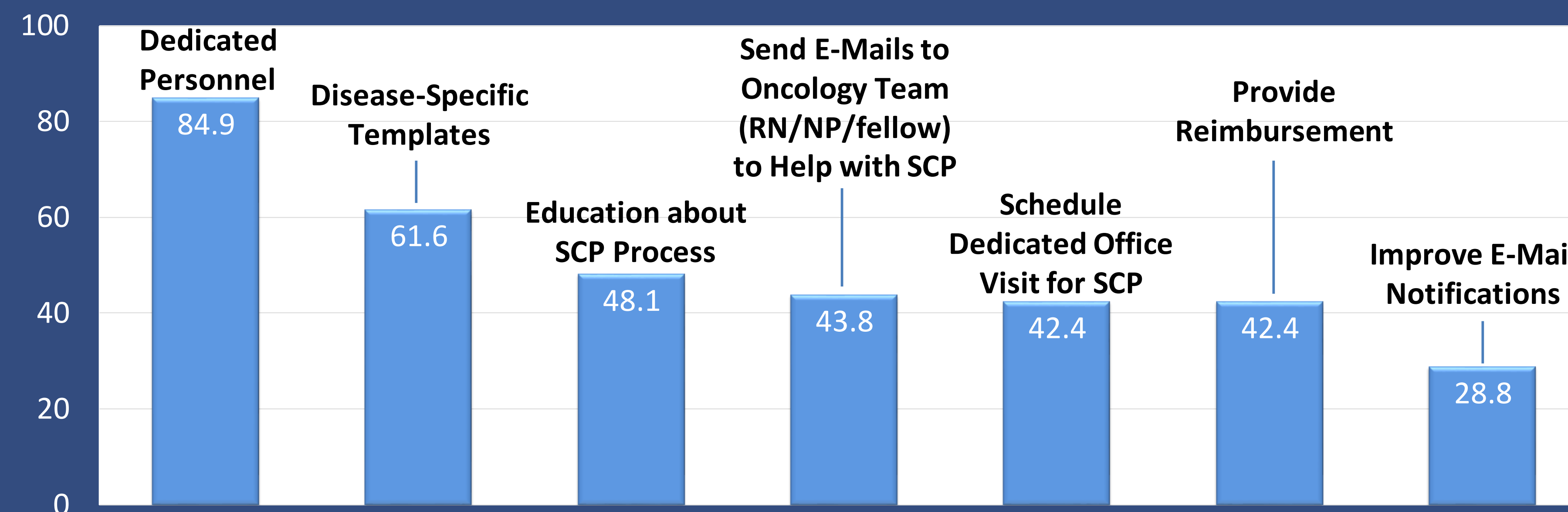


Figure 4. Potential Solutions. Respondents were asked what they viewed as potential solutions. Dedicated personnel and improvements in the SCP process were identified as major themes.

Are SCPs Beneficial for Patients?

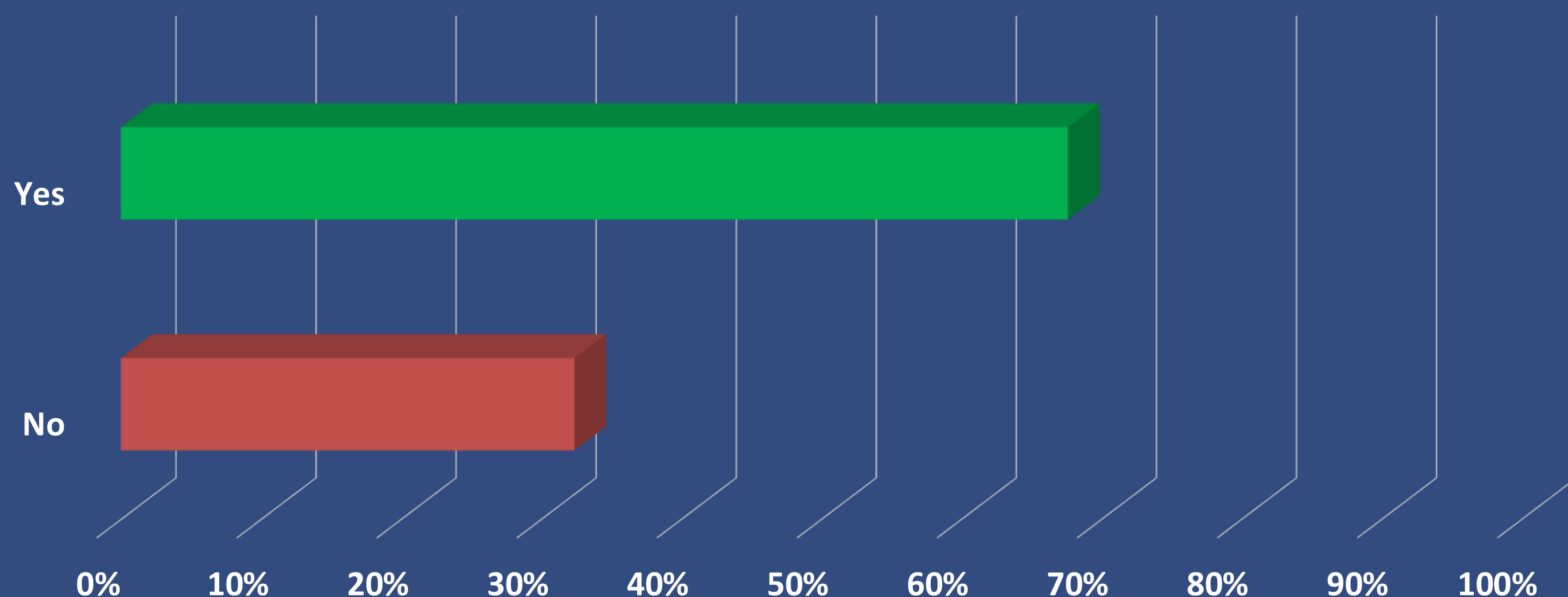


Figure 3. Attitudes Towards SCPs. Respondents were asked whether they believed SCPs are beneficial for patients. A total of 48 (67.6%) respondents stated yes.

Lessons Learned & Next Steps

- Lack of time, insufficient personnel, and lack of clarity regarding how to complete an SCP were identified as major barriers to SCP implementation, while dedicated personal and improvements in the SCP process were pointed towards as potential solutions to increase completion.
- We will work to improve the SCP process, specifically by having a pre-templated SCP placed in the medical record system prior to a provider's visit with the patient in order to streamline completion.
- We will educate providers regarding the benefits of SCPs and the new process via in-person education and an online training module.

Citations

1. Shapiro, CL. *Cancer Survivorship*. N Eng J Med 2018;379:2438-50.

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