PRACTICE PATTERNS, BARRIERS, AND FACILITATORS OF VACCINATION IN HAEMODIALYSIS RECIPIENTS: A NATIONAL CLINICIAN SURVEY

ERIN VAUGHAN[1,2], KATE WYBURN[1,2], STEVE CHADBAN[1,2], MELANIE WYLD [1,2]
Staff Specialist, Nephrologist
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney[1]
University of Sydney[2]

Background

Patients with kidney failure receiving haemodialysis are vulnerable to vaccine-preventable infectious diseases

Vaccination uptake remains sub-optimal

Study Aims

Explore clinician perspectives and practices regarding vaccination in haemodialysis patients

Identify barriers and actionable facilitators to improve vaccination rates

Methods

National web-based survey addressing four principal domains:

Attitudes and beliefs regarding vaccination

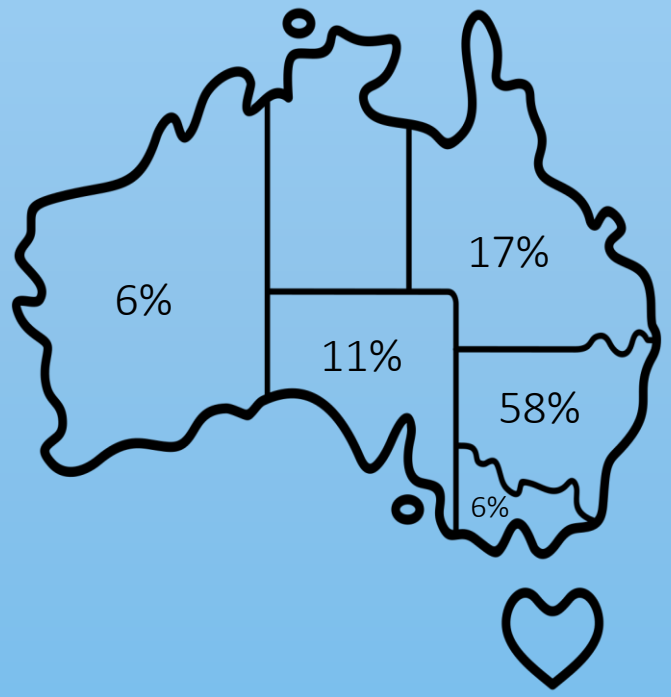
Current practice patterns and clinical observations

Clinician-perceived barriers to vaccination

Clinician-derived solutions to improve vaccination uptake

Respondents

91 clinicians



- All states and territories except Tasmania and NT. ACT 1%
- 87% metropolitan

Role

Neph General: 55 (59.8%)

Tx Neph: 19 (21%)

80%

Renal Nurse: 12 (13%)

Renal Trainee: 6 (6.5%)

56%

Adult and paediatrics

88%

12%

Working years

<5 years : 12 (13%)
5-10 years: 29 (32%)
>10 years: 51 (55%)

Attitudes and beliefs regarding vaccination

Current practice patterns and clinical observations

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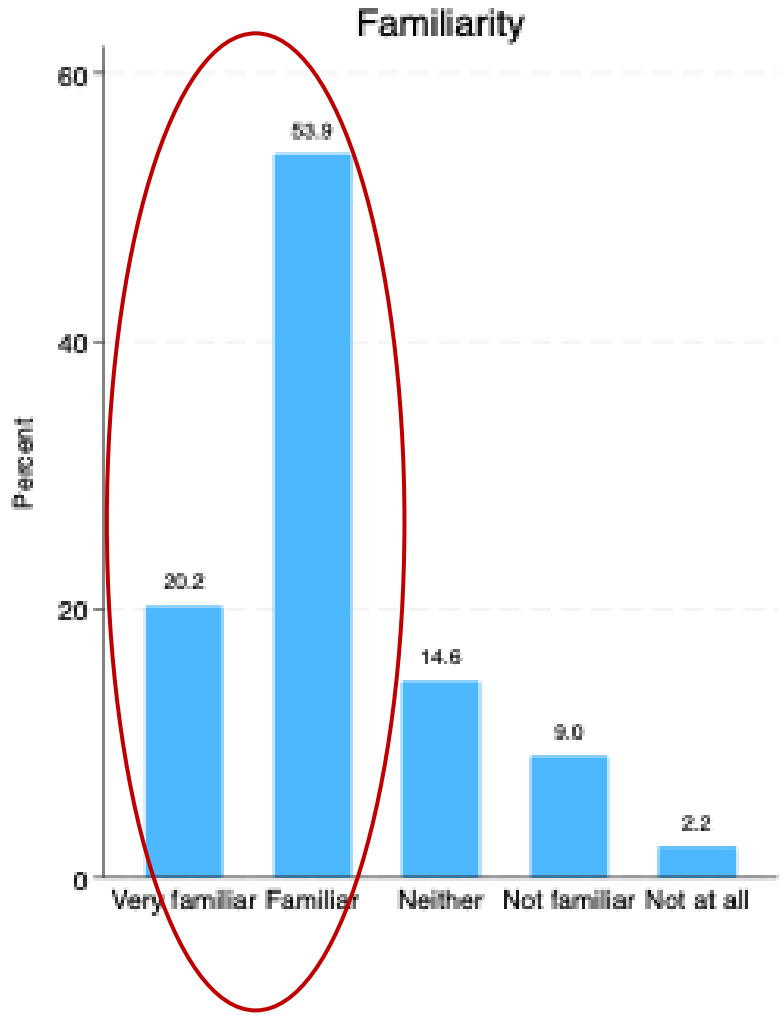
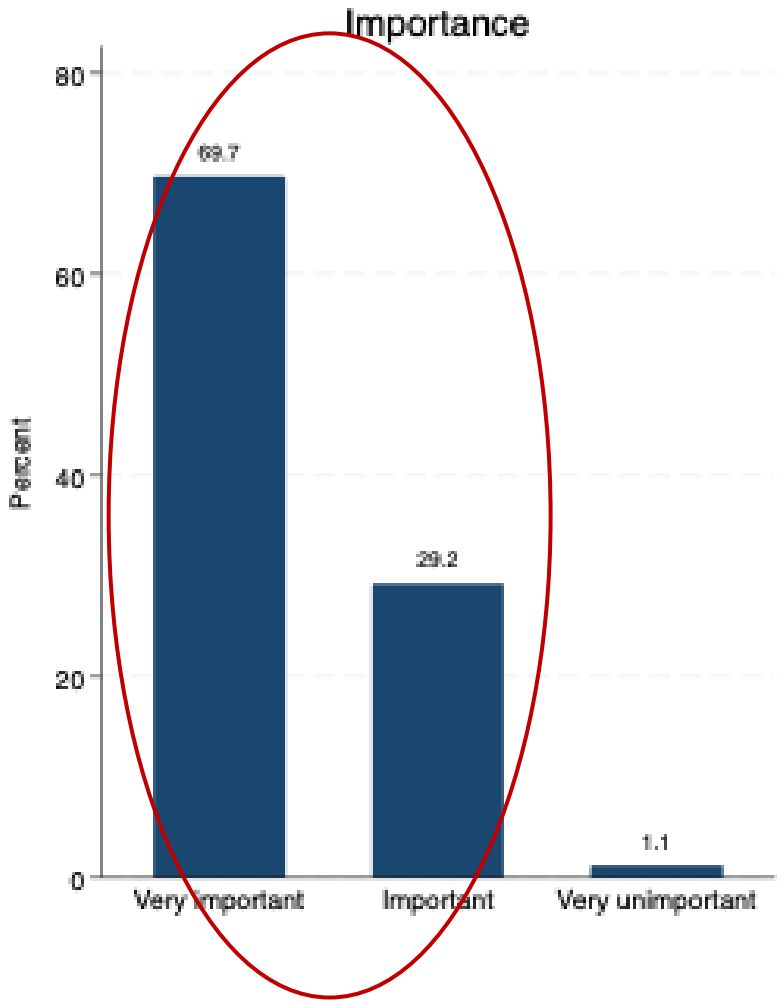
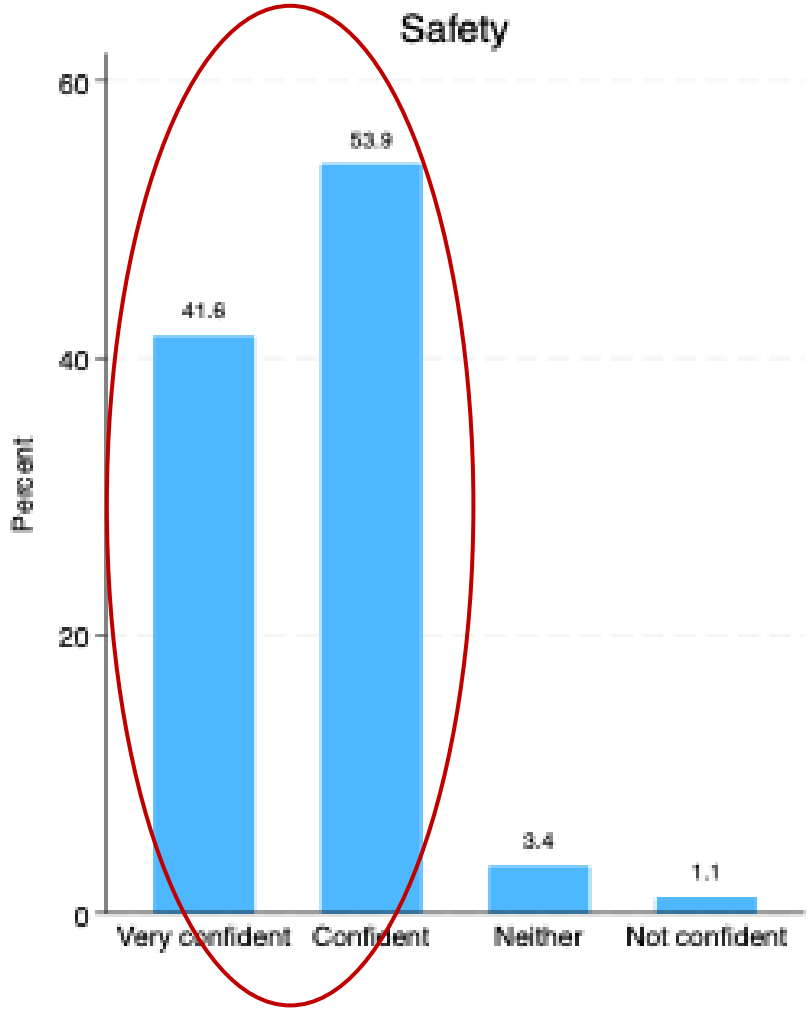
Familiarity and importance of guidelines

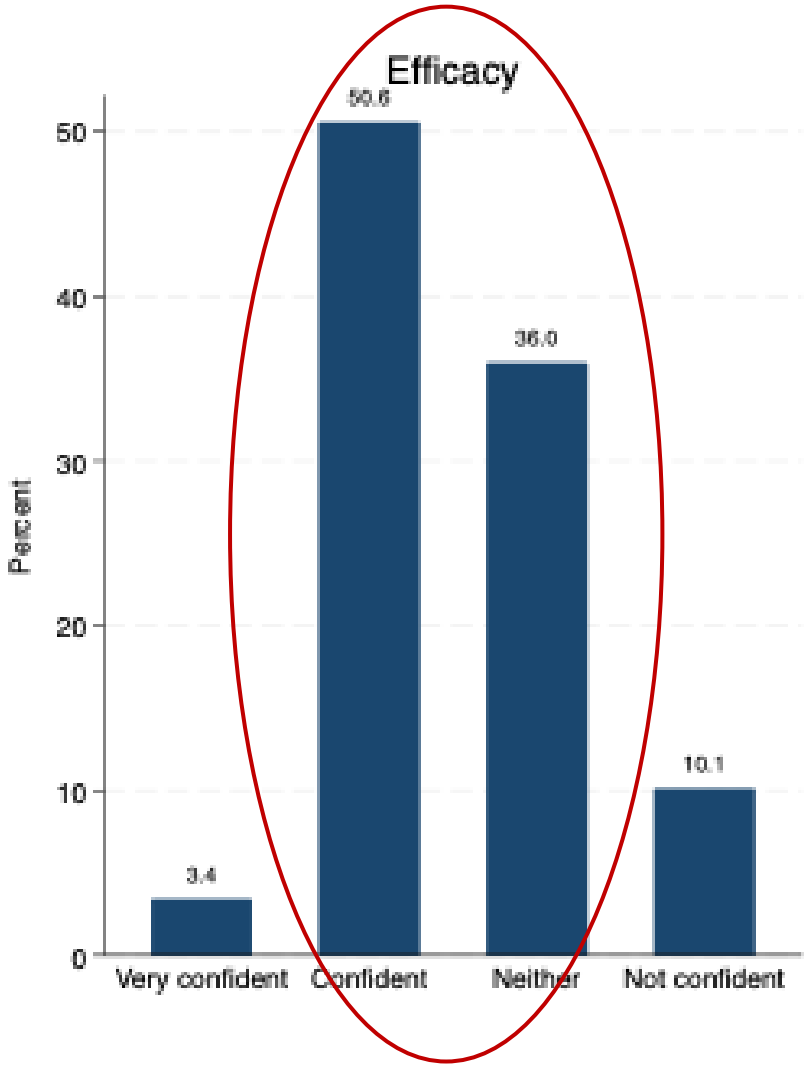




How familiar are you with the current vaccination guidelines for dialysis patients?
How important do you believe vaccinations are for dialysis patients?

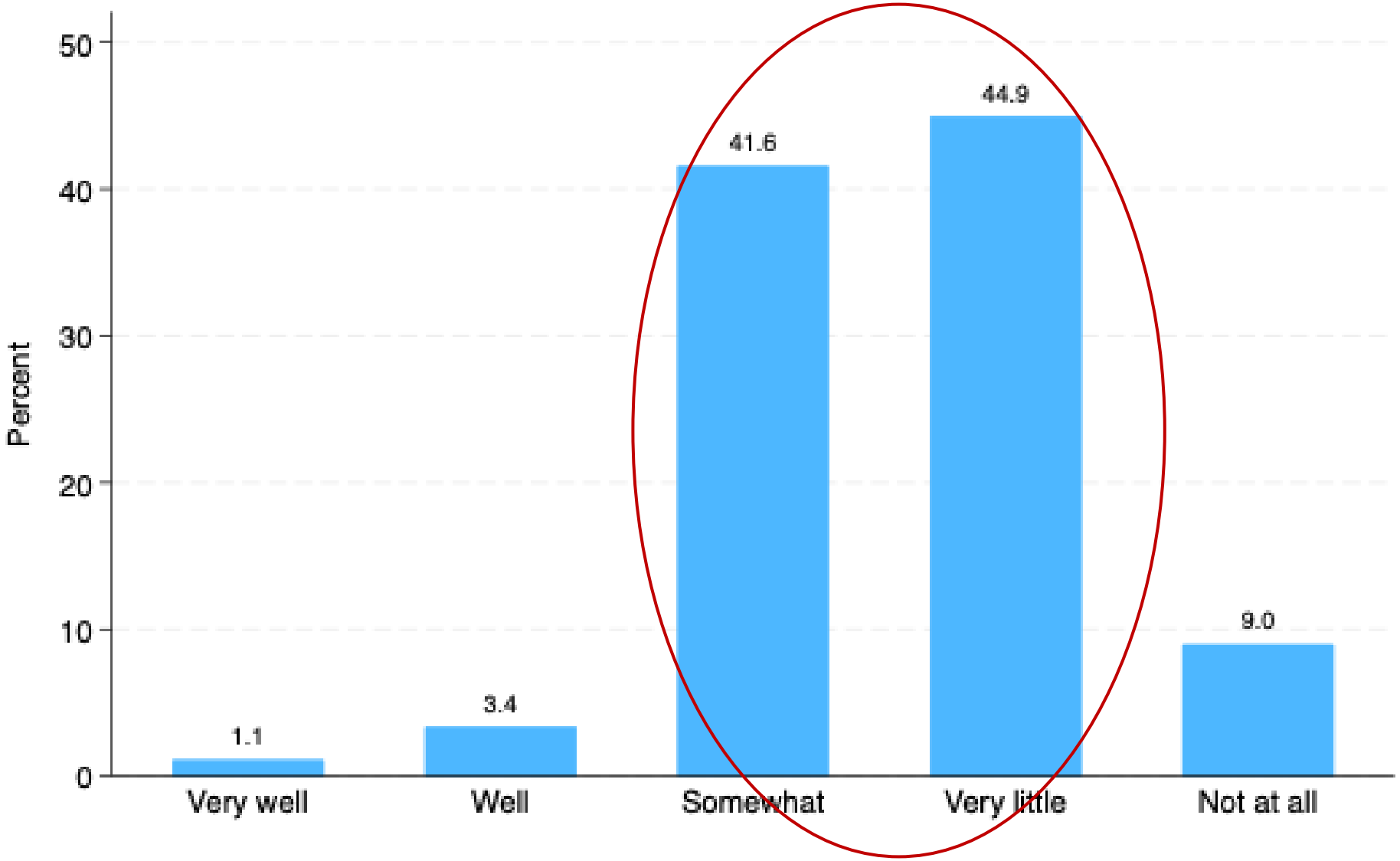
Confidence in safety and efficacy of vaccines





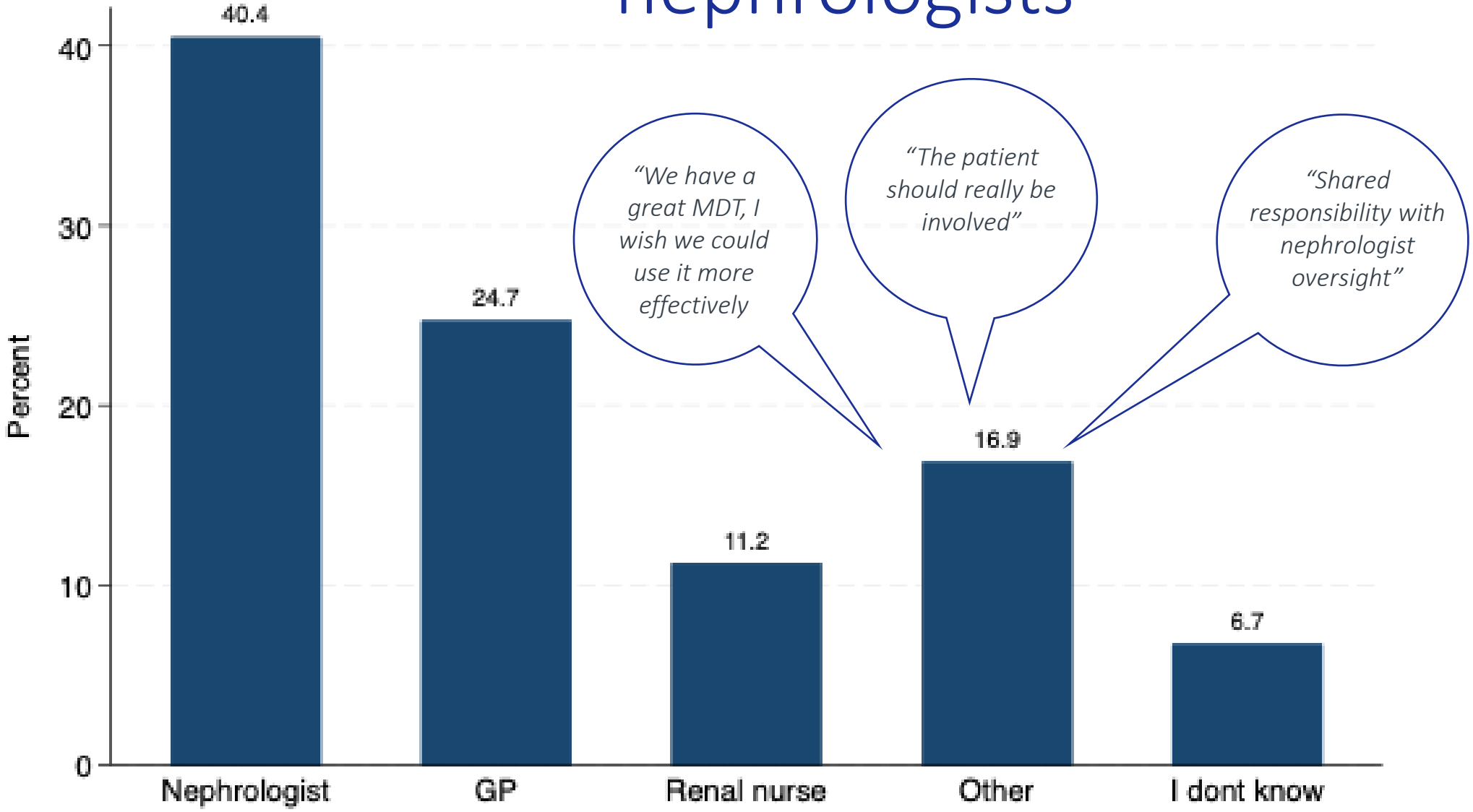
How confident are you in the efficacy of vaccines for dialysis patients?
How confident are you in the safety of vaccines for dialysis patients?

Clinicians report limited patient understanding



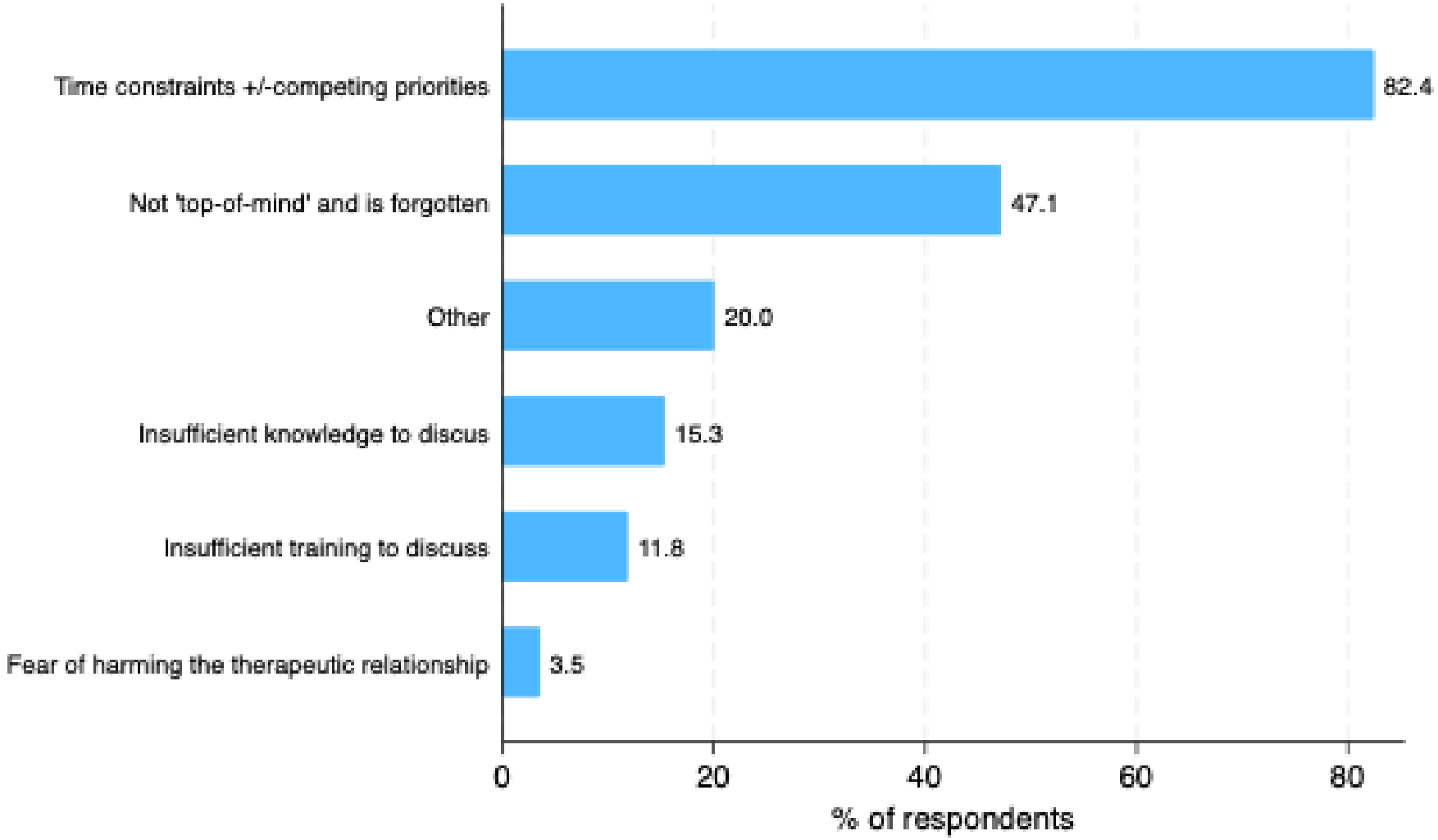
In your opinion, do dialysis patients generally understand their specific vaccination needs?

Primary vaccination oversight falls to nephrologists



Who do you think has primary responsibility for ensuring that a dialysis patient is up to date with their recommended vaccinations?

What challenges do you face when ***discussing*** vaccination with your dialysis patients?



*"**No engagement**, they are highly burdened population and the **last thing they care about** is vaccination"*

"Lack of prompts"

"Poor health literacy of patients"

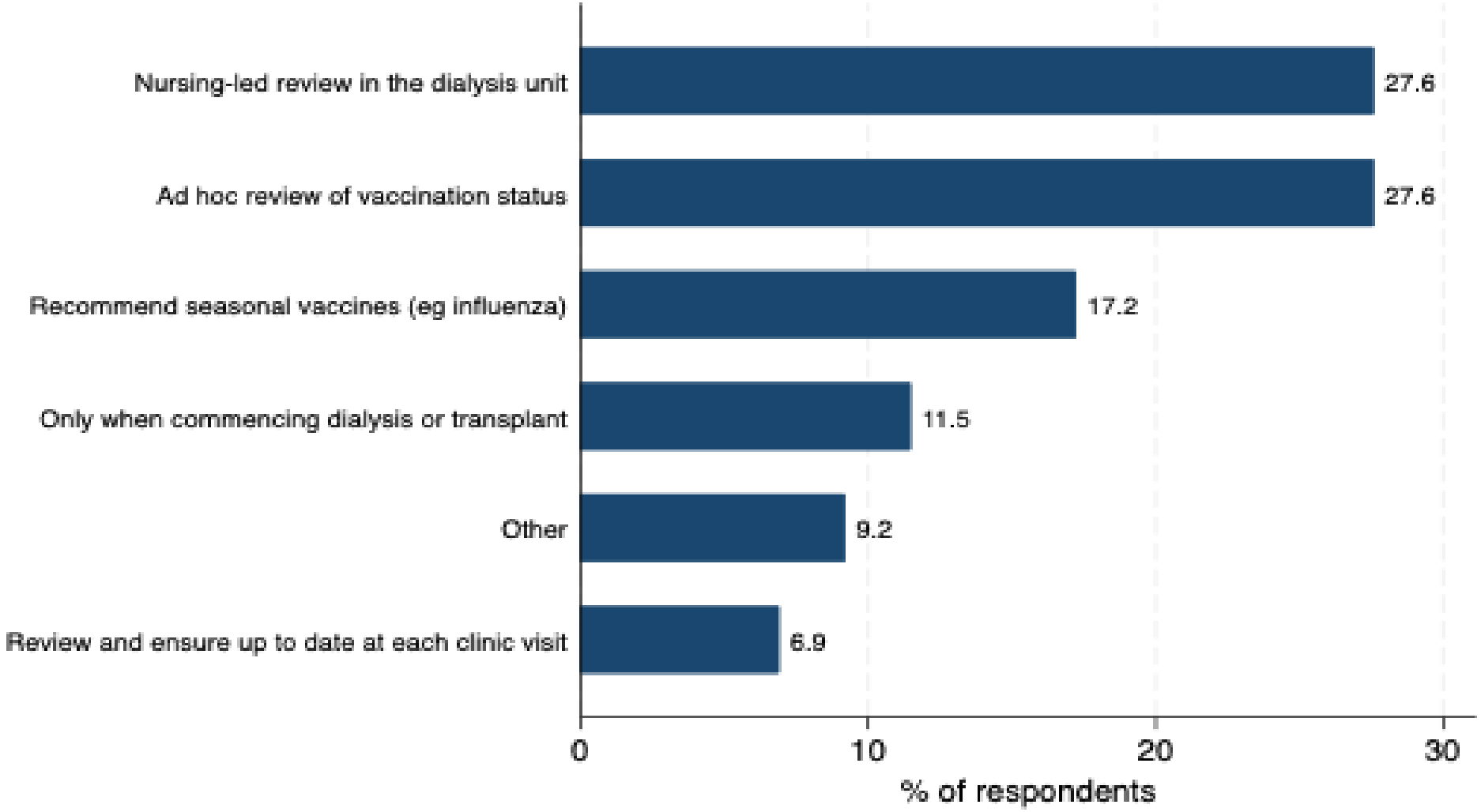
Attitudes and beliefs regarding vaccination

Current practice patterns and clinical observations

Clinician-perceived barriers to vaccination

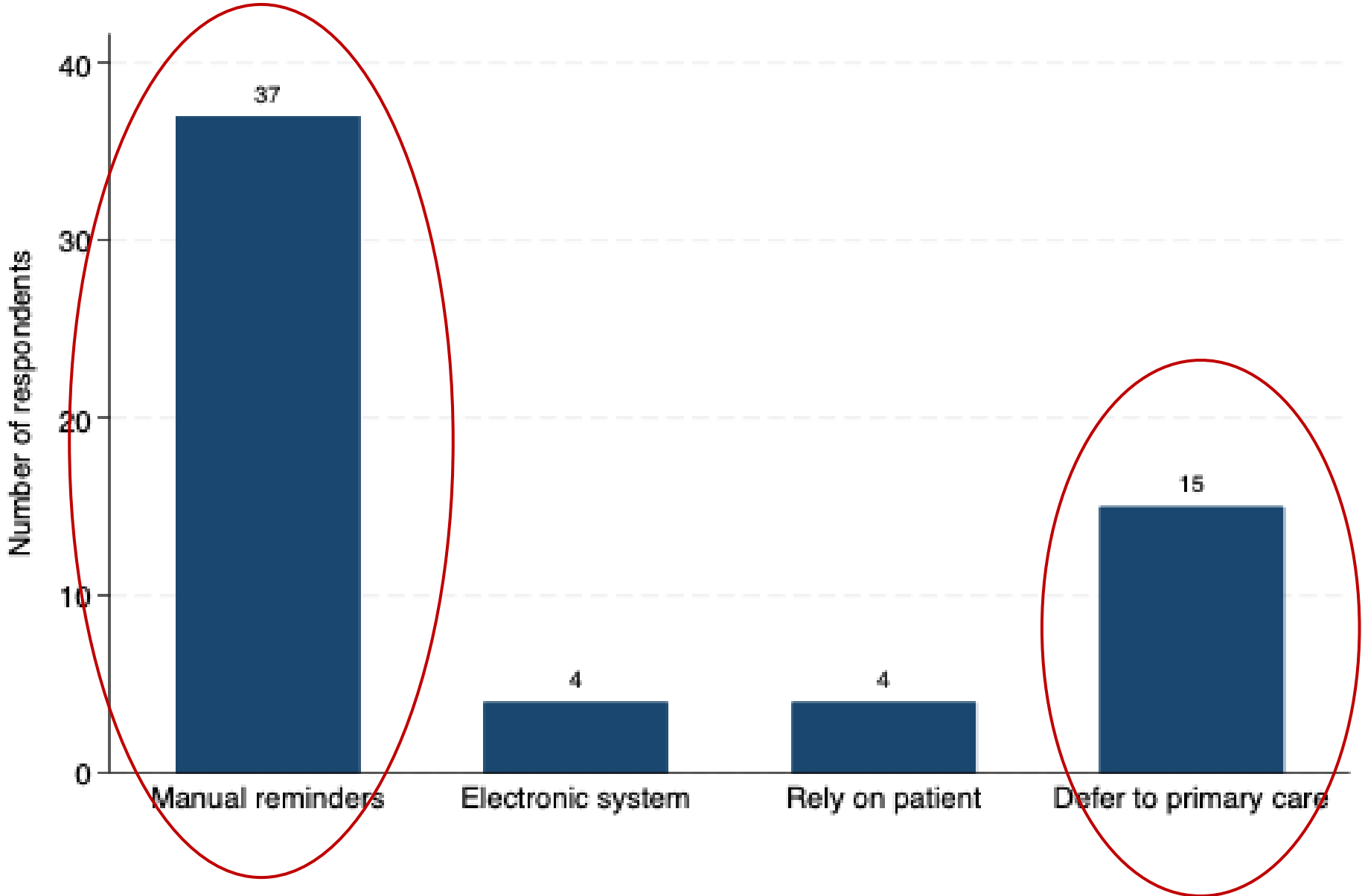
Clinician-derived solutions to improve vaccination uptake

Vaccine recommendations deferred to nursing staff or reviewed “ad-hoc”

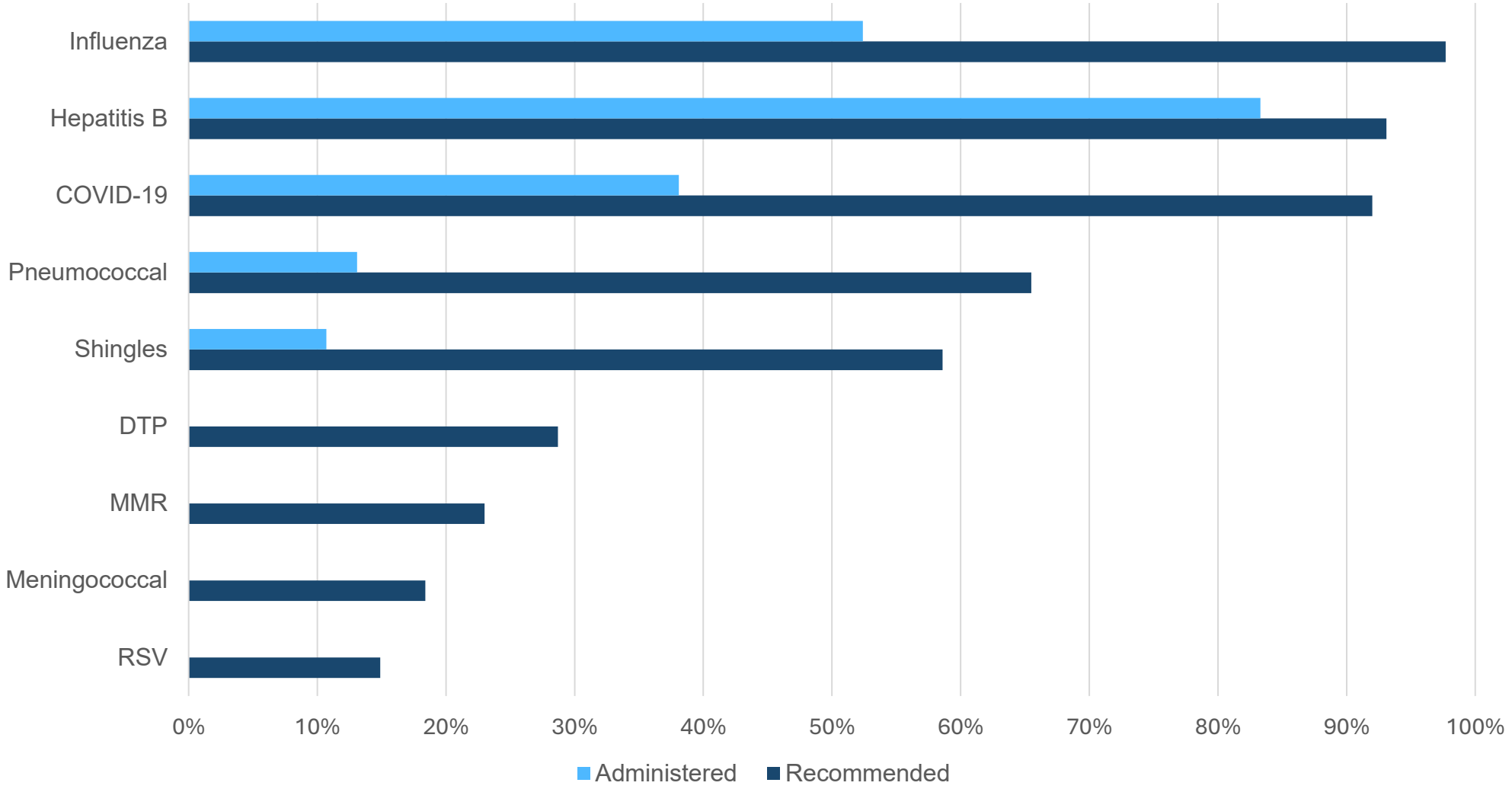


Which of the following best describes your practice when recommending vaccinations for dialysis patients?

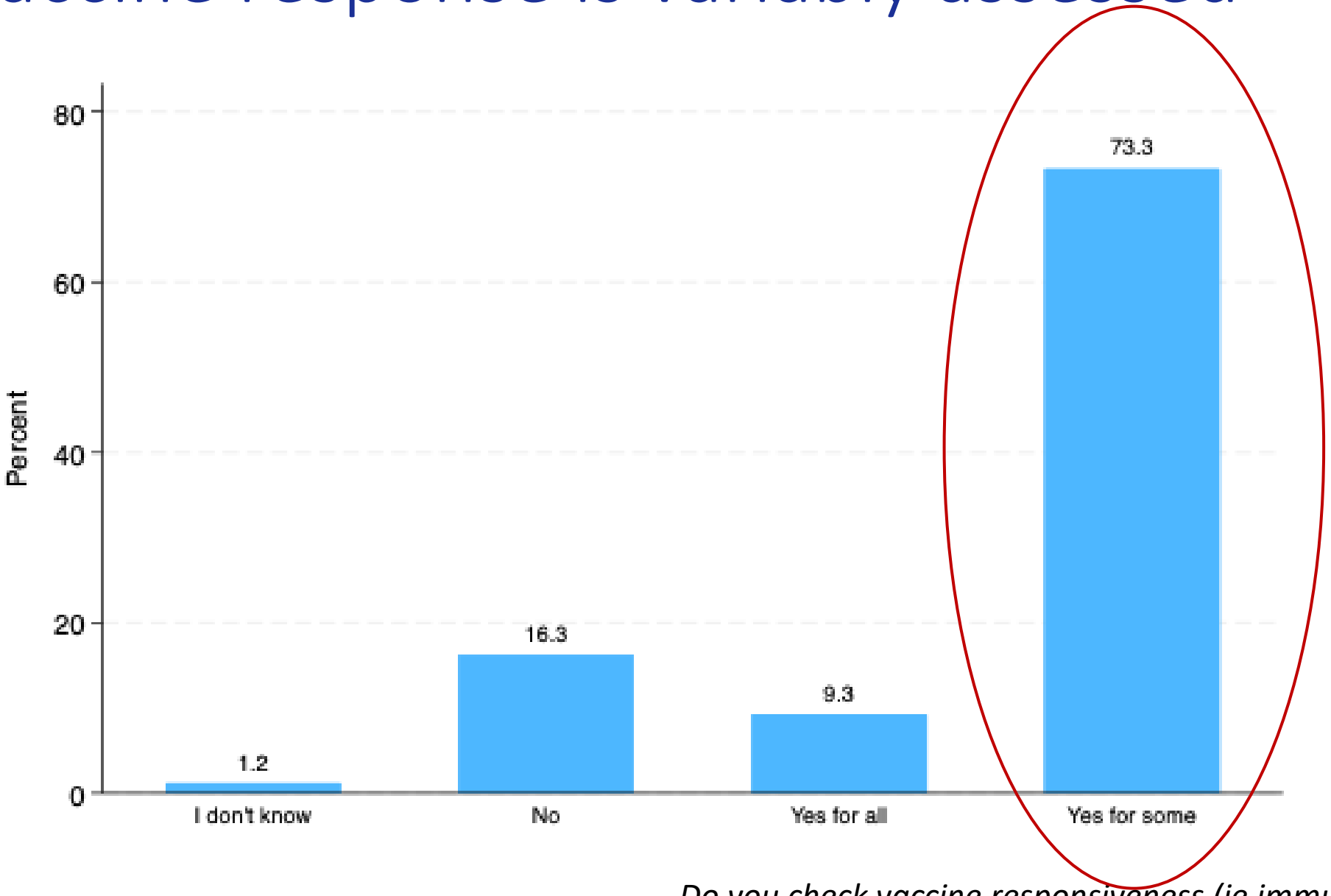
No systematic method for vaccine reminders



We **recommended** but do not administer vaccinations



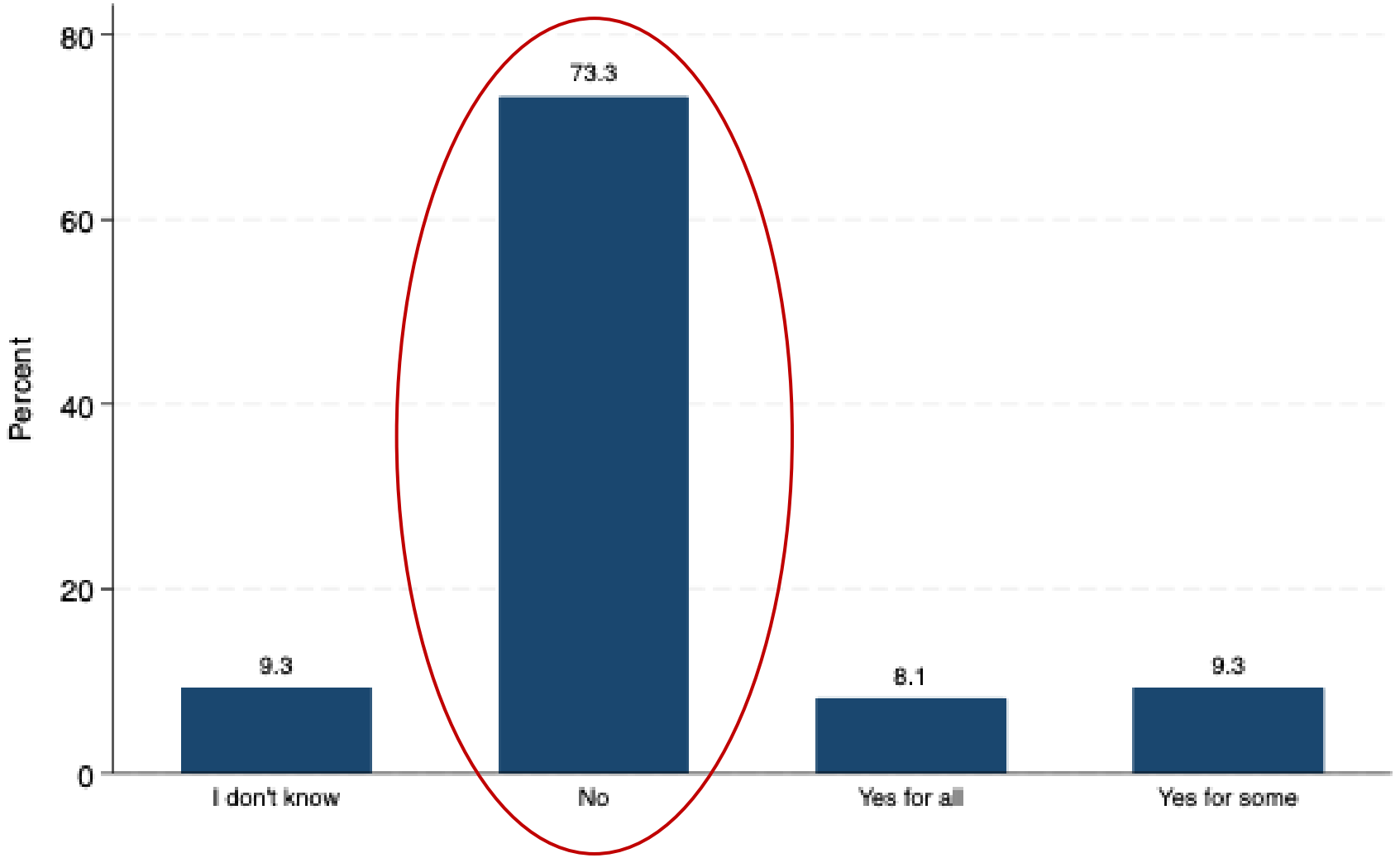
Vaccine response is variably assessed



* Mostly Hepatitis B
* VZV pre-transplant

Do you check vaccine responsiveness (ie immunity) following vaccinations?

We do not assess health outcomes by vaccine status



Do you track the health outcomes of vaccinated vs unvaccinated dialysis patients?

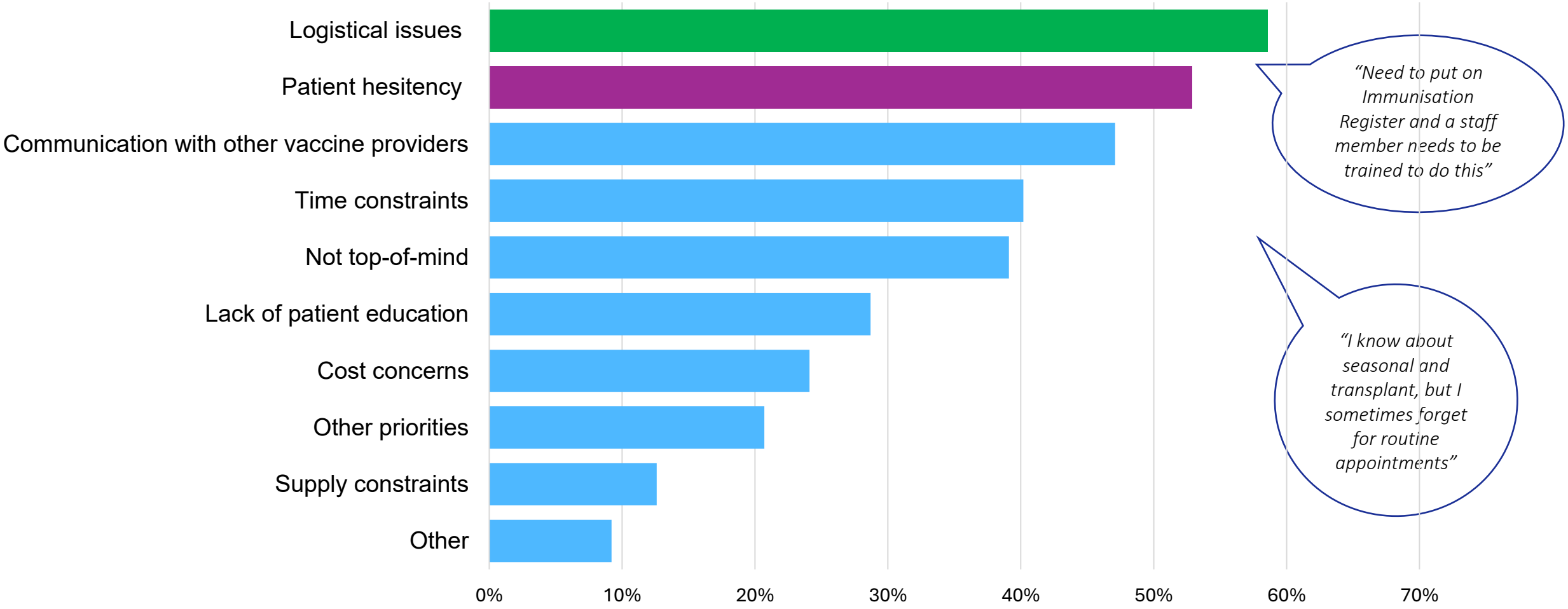
Attitudes and beliefs regarding vaccination

Current practice patterns and clinical observations

Clinician-perceived barriers to vaccination

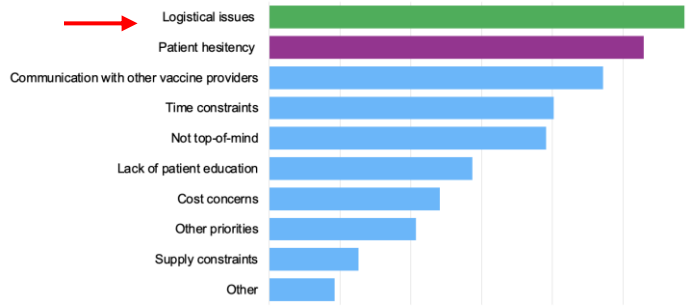
Clinician-derived solutions to improve vaccination uptake

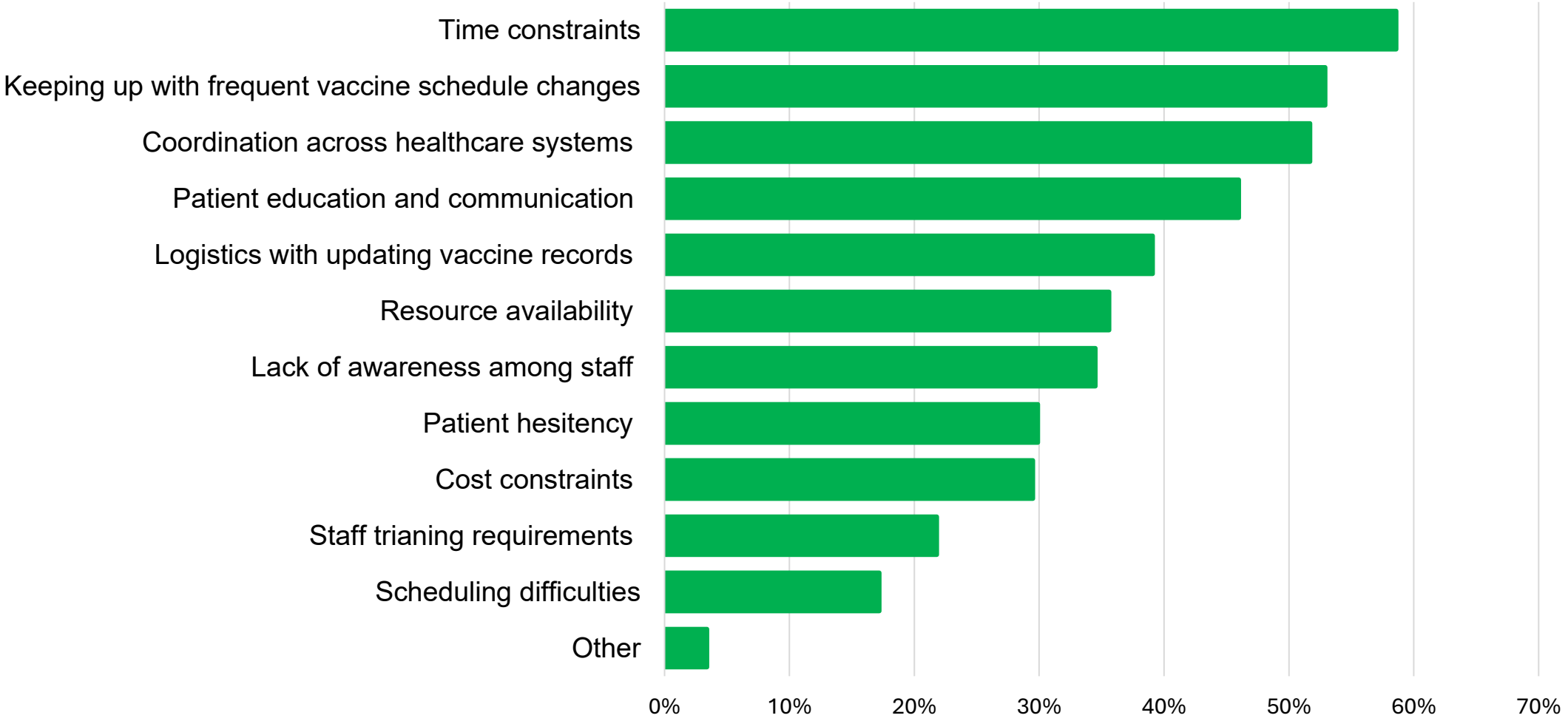
Logistical issues are the greatest barriers to effective vaccination



What are the major barriers you face in vaccinating dialysis patients?

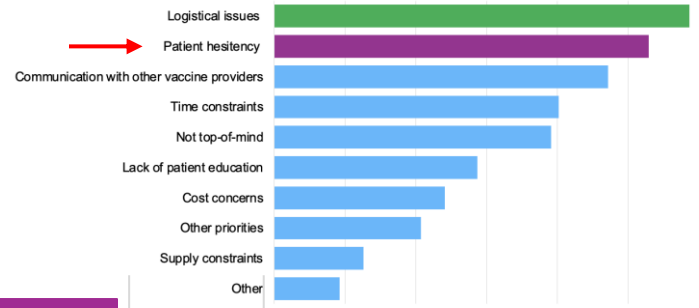
Time is the greatest challenge

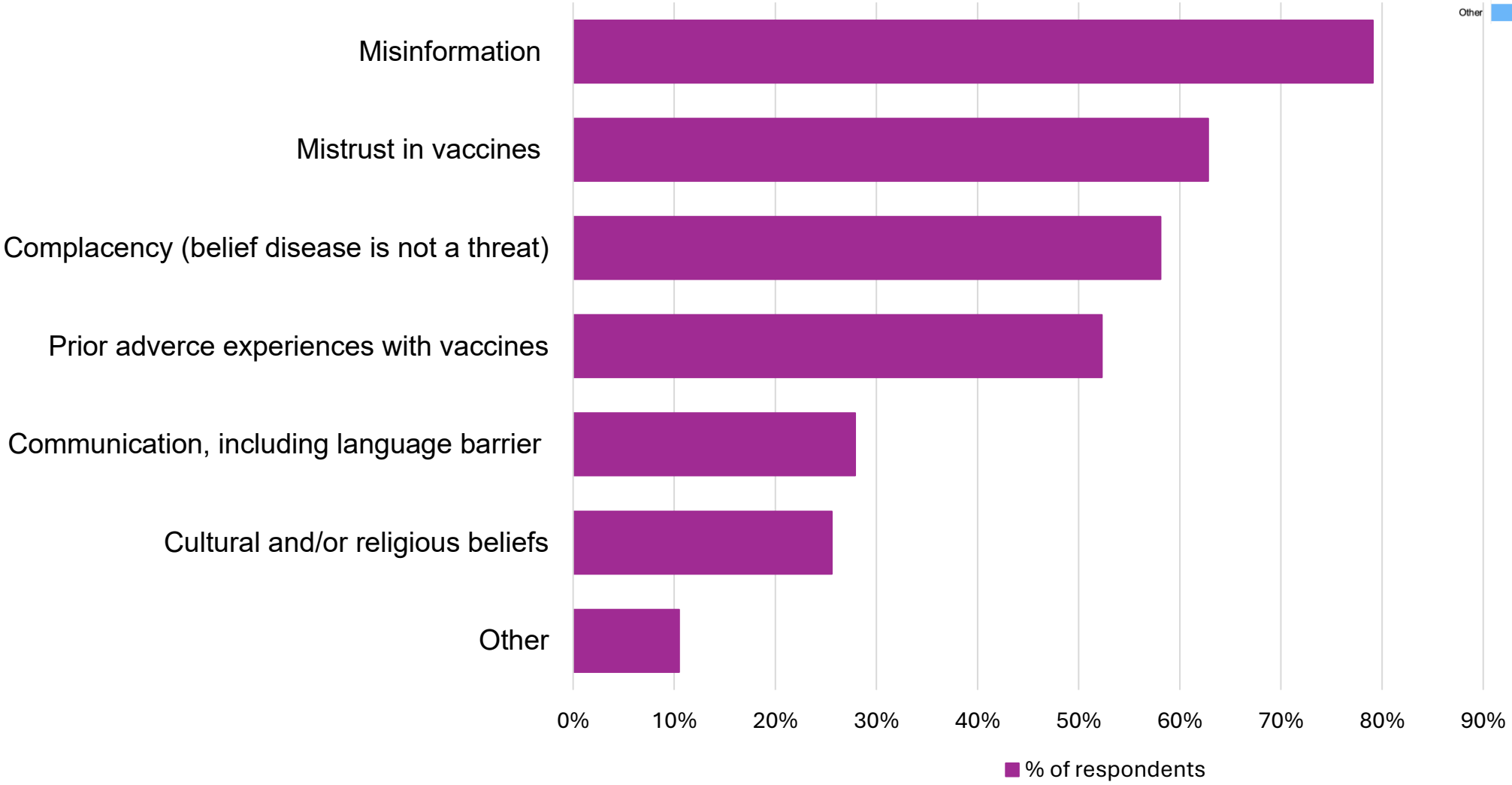




What challenges have you faced with implementing updated vaccination schedule recommendations?

Misinformation drives vaccine hesitancy





In your experience, what are the common reasons dialysis patients refuse vaccinations?

Attitudes and beliefs regarding vaccination

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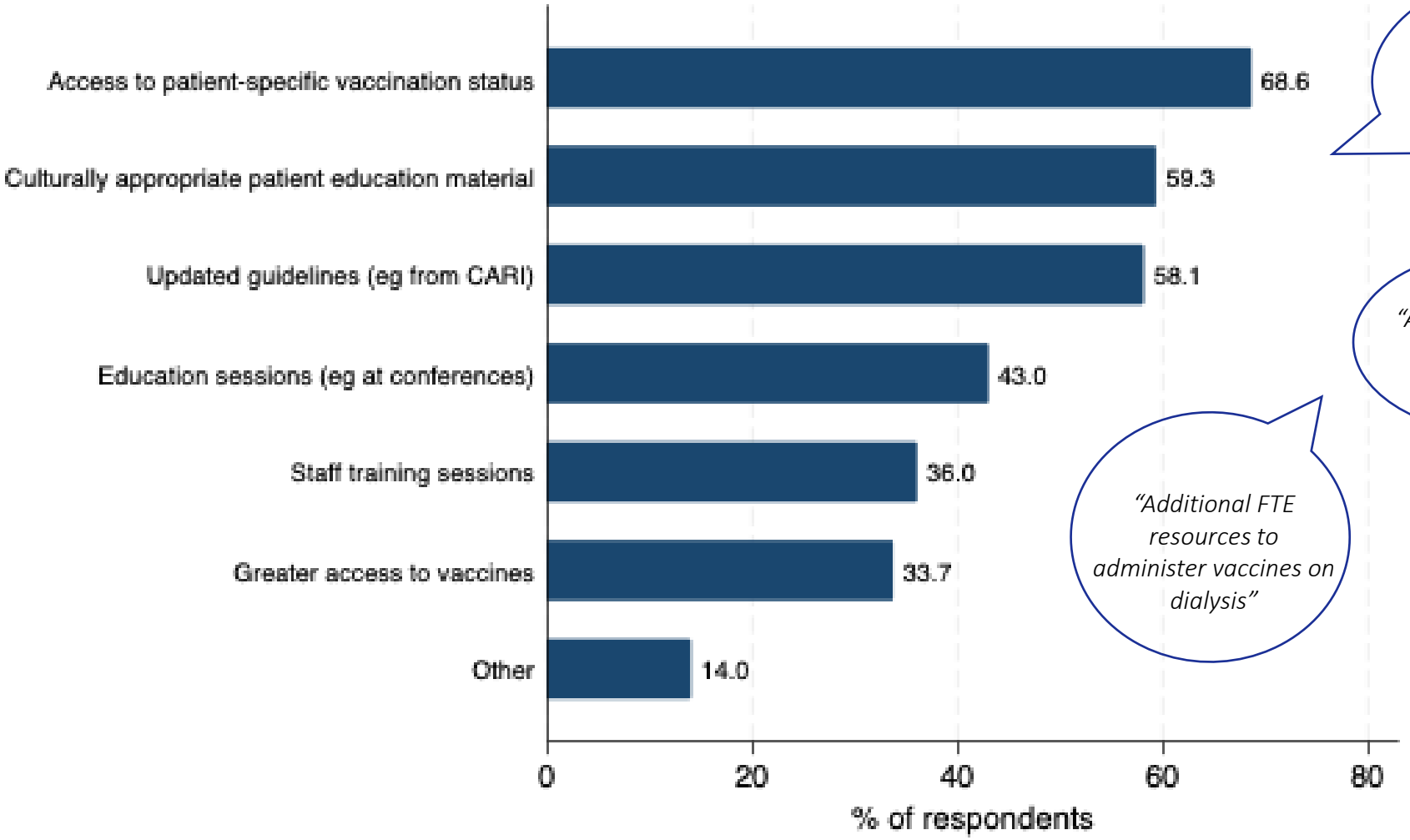
Clinician-derived solutions to improve vaccination uptake

Resources to improve vaccine rates



"Widespread distribution of guidelines in a simple and concise format"

Prioritisation by higher governing bodies

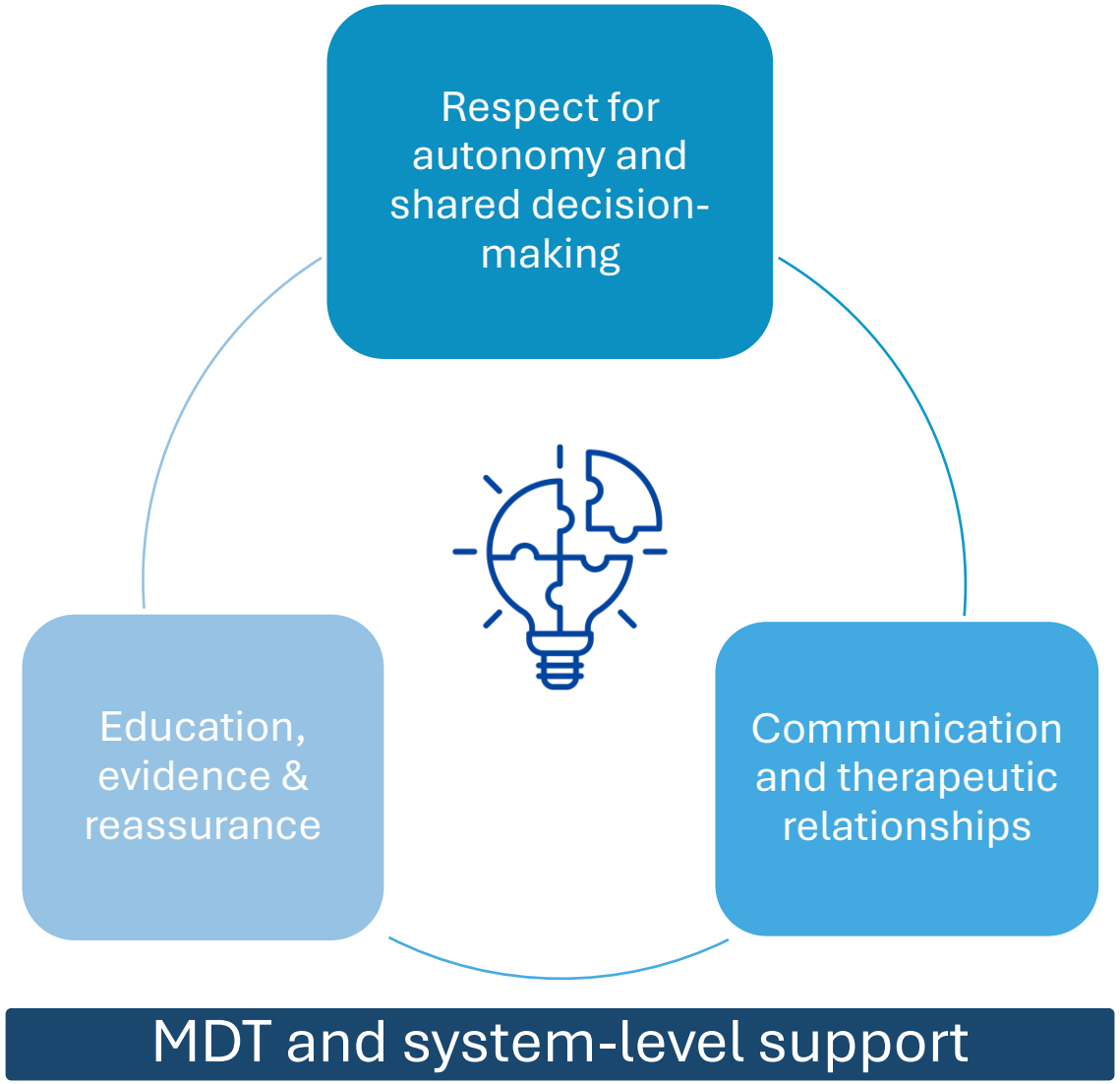
"A yearly reminder of status would be invaluable"

"Additional FTE resources to administer vaccines on dialysis"

Would be good if automated in medical records eg - meningococcal vaccine due if patient on a C inhibitor?

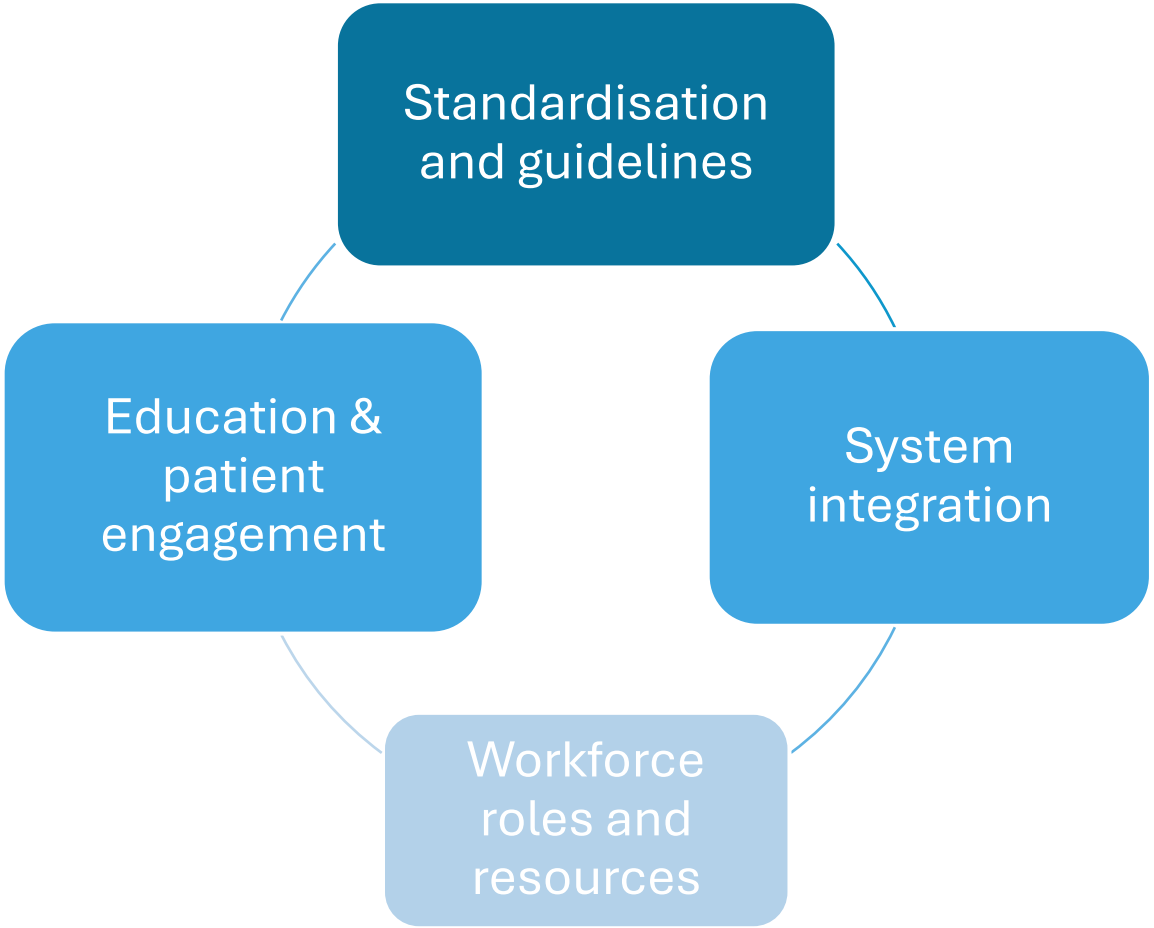
What resources or information would help you improve vaccination rates among your dialysis patients?

Communication is key to address vaccine hesitancy



How do you address vaccine hesitancy among dialysis patients, particularly concerning new vaccines or high-dose formulations?

Suggestions for improvement



"No vaccines = no transplant"

"We are lucky—in paediatrics a vaccine-specific clinic has meant our rates are excellent."

"More research into responsiveness and efficacy in dialysis patients is needed, current recommendations may be extrapolated."

Do you have any suggestions for improving vaccination rates among dialysis patients?

Conclusions

- Strong clinician support for vaccination

- Substantial patient and system-level barriers

- Sustainable improvement will require
  - Systematically incorporating vaccination into routine dialysis care
  - Integration of health records
  - Early vaccine planning, education and funding

Limitations

Clinician-centric perspective

Generalisability

Health service and contextual differences

Demographic stratification

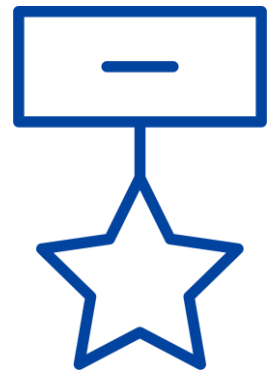
Future Directions

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Research Study:

Help Us Understand Vaccination Needs for People on Dialysis!

https://sydney.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_57JA3XU8XbOo5U2

Acknowledgements

- Supervisors
- Clinician participants
- Consumer advisors
- Dialysis unit and NP Jacqui Moustakas