

# Information provided to inpatients on their infection and antimicrobial therapy: patients' perspective

Part 1

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## Introduction

- Shared decision making is a key component of delivering patient-centred care<sup>1</sup>.
- This is reflected in the Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard<sup>2</sup>.

## 5 Quality statement 5 - Patient information and shared decision making

A patient with an infection, or at risk of an infection, is provided with information about their condition and treatment options in a way that they can understand. If antimicrobials are prescribed, information on how to use them, when to stop, potential side effects and a review plan is discussed with the patient.

## Aim

To investigate the provision of information to **inpatients** regarding their **infection** and **antimicrobial therapy**, and to assess their **understanding** and level of **satisfaction** with the information provided to them.

## Methods

- Survey of inpatients who received antimicrobial(s) for **>24 hours** at a 450-bed tertiary hospital;
  - Acute **M**edical Unit (AMU)
  - Acute **S**urgical Unit (ASU)
  - 10C – Medical Specialities Ward (under the care of **I**nfectious **D**iseases)

Exclusion criteria	
	Significant language barrier
	Confusion/delirium
	Current COVID-19 infection
	Patients who declined to participate

- Data collected using REDCap®.
- Responses analysed quantitatively, and suggestions collated and analysed qualitatively.

## Results

711  
inpatients  
screened

72  
patients  
interviewed

50  
complete  
responses obtained

Table 1: Patient Demographics

Age (mean, range)	56.74, 18-92
Sex	58% M; 42% F
Ethnicity and English proficiency	Identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander – 6 English: first language – 42 English: second language – 8
Ward	ASU – 24 AMU – 20 10C - 6

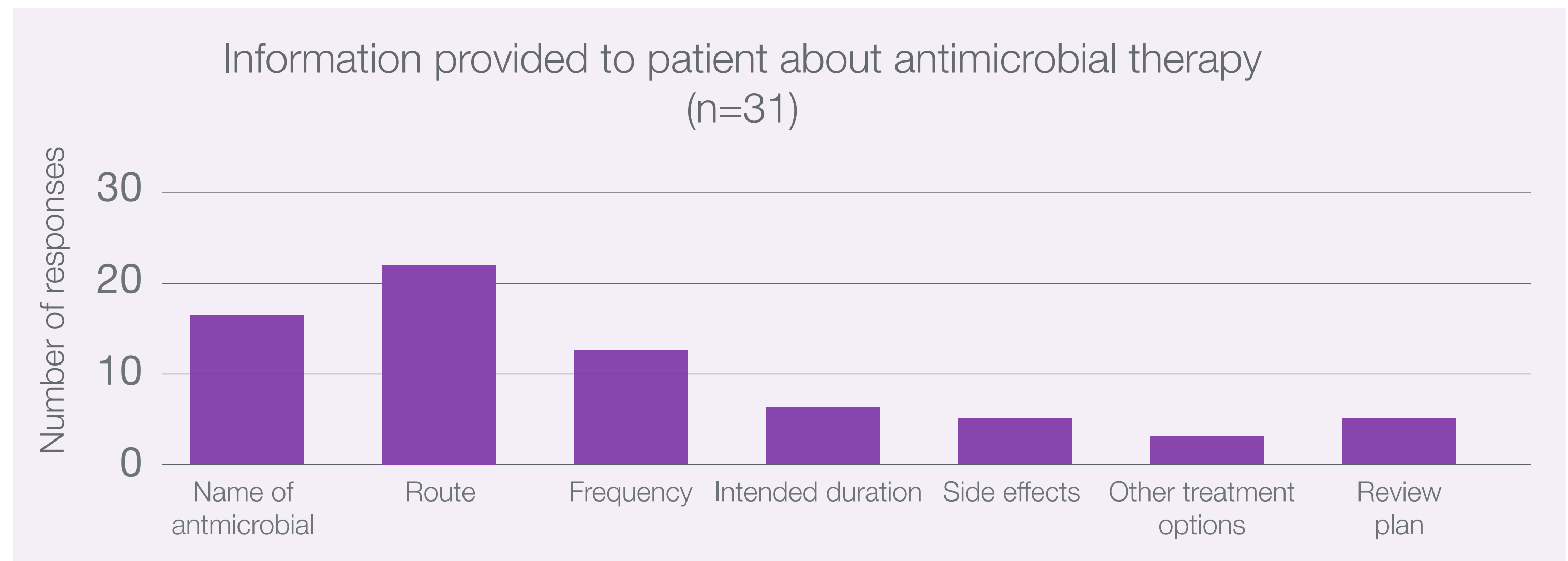
6%  
were unaware they were receiving antimicrobial therapy

56%  
reported receiving information about infection

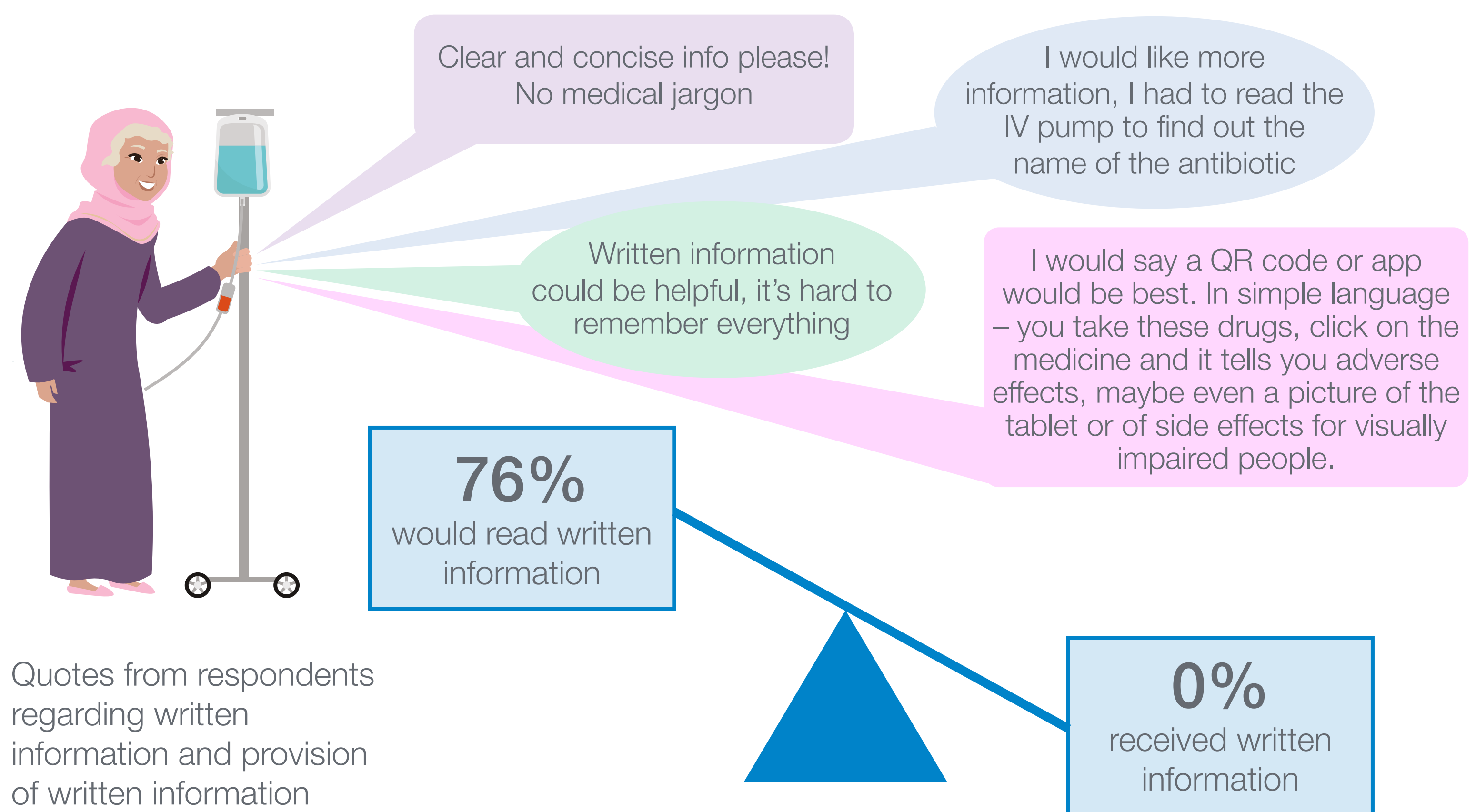
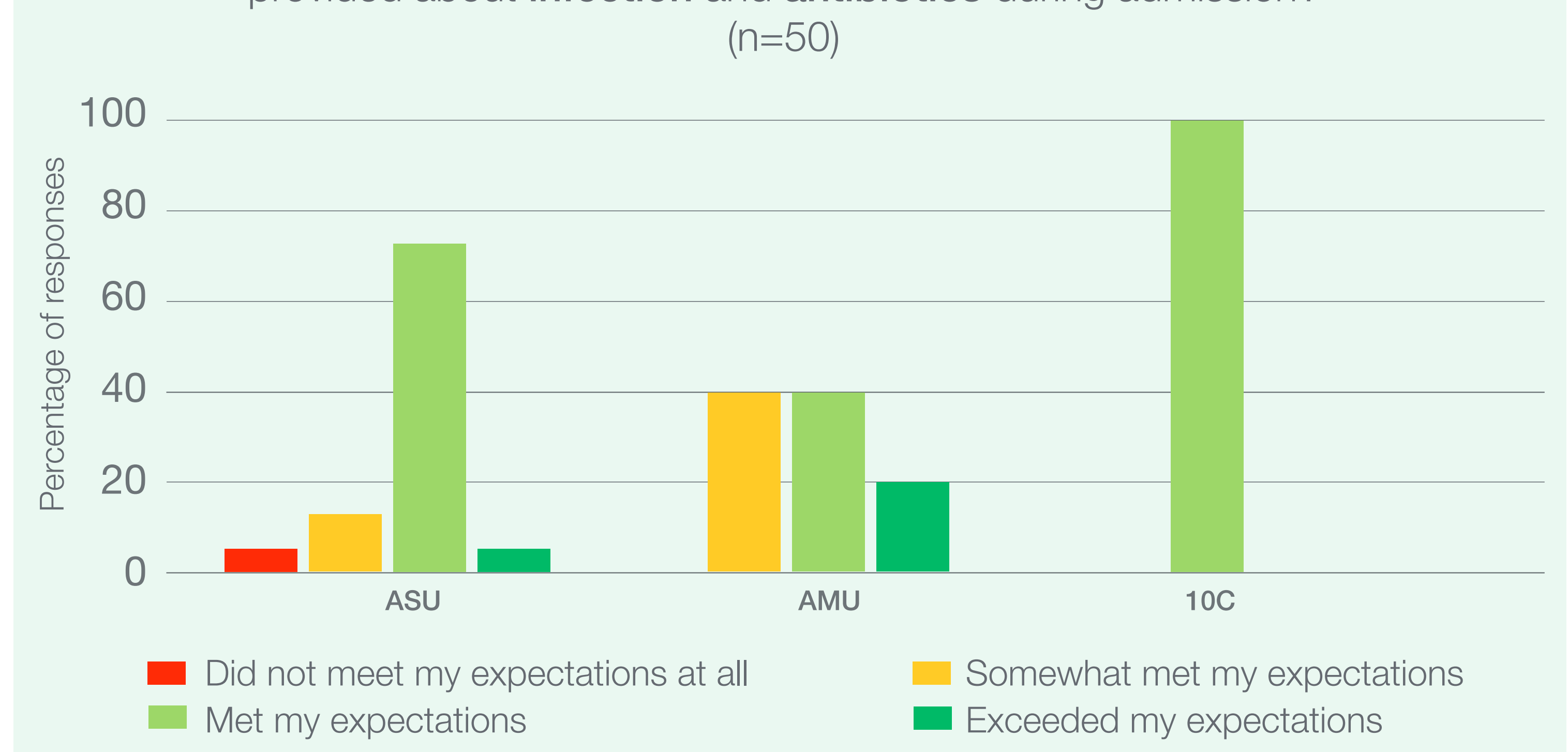
62%  
reported receiving information about antimicrobials

## Results

Of the 31 patients who recalled receiving information regarding their antimicrobial therapy, **6.5%** reported receiving this from a **pharmacist**, **48.4%** from a **doctor** and **51.6%** from a **nurse**.



To what **level** have the hospital staff **met your expectations** regarding the information provided about **infection** and **antibiotics** during admission?



## Discussion

- Less than two-thirds of patients reported receiving information regarding their infection and antimicrobial therapy, which reflects an opportunity to improve shared-decision making.
- Most patients did not recall receiving information regarding all key aspects of antimicrobial therapy (e.g. potential side-effects and treatment options) and expressed a desire to receive more information.
- Patients under the direct care of Infectious Diseases were more satisfied with information provided about infection and antimicrobial therapy.
- Pharmacists are well placed to provide patient counselling on antimicrobial therapy, but this is uncommonly done during admission. This could be due to competing priorities and lack of resources, but should be explored further.
- Over 75% of patients reported a desire to receive simplified written information (e.g. information leaflets). Implementation of such tools in the inpatient setting can aid in creating a more patient-centred approach to care and lead to improved patient satisfaction.

## References

- ACSQHC. (2023). Shared decision making | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/partnering-consumers/shared-decision-making>
- ACSQHC. (2023). Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard. Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/clinical-care-standards/antimicrobial-stewardship-clinical-care-standard>