

# Assessing Consumer Understanding of Antimicrobials

Joy Chua<sup>1</sup> | William Franks<sup>2</sup> | Dr Alexandra Stewart<sup>3</sup> | Sarah Risdale<sup>3</sup>

1. School of Pharmacy, University of Queensland.; 2. Antimicrobial Stewardship, MNHHS; 3. Antimicrobial Stewardship, RBWH

## Background

The Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard produced by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Quality Statement 5 outlines the standard of care that patients should receive for suspected or proven infections. If antimicrobials are prescribed, written and/or verbal information on how and when to take them, duration and potential adverse effects should be discussed with the patient.

The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) program has not previously had a routine process for capturing information on patient's understanding of antimicrobial prescribing.

## Aims

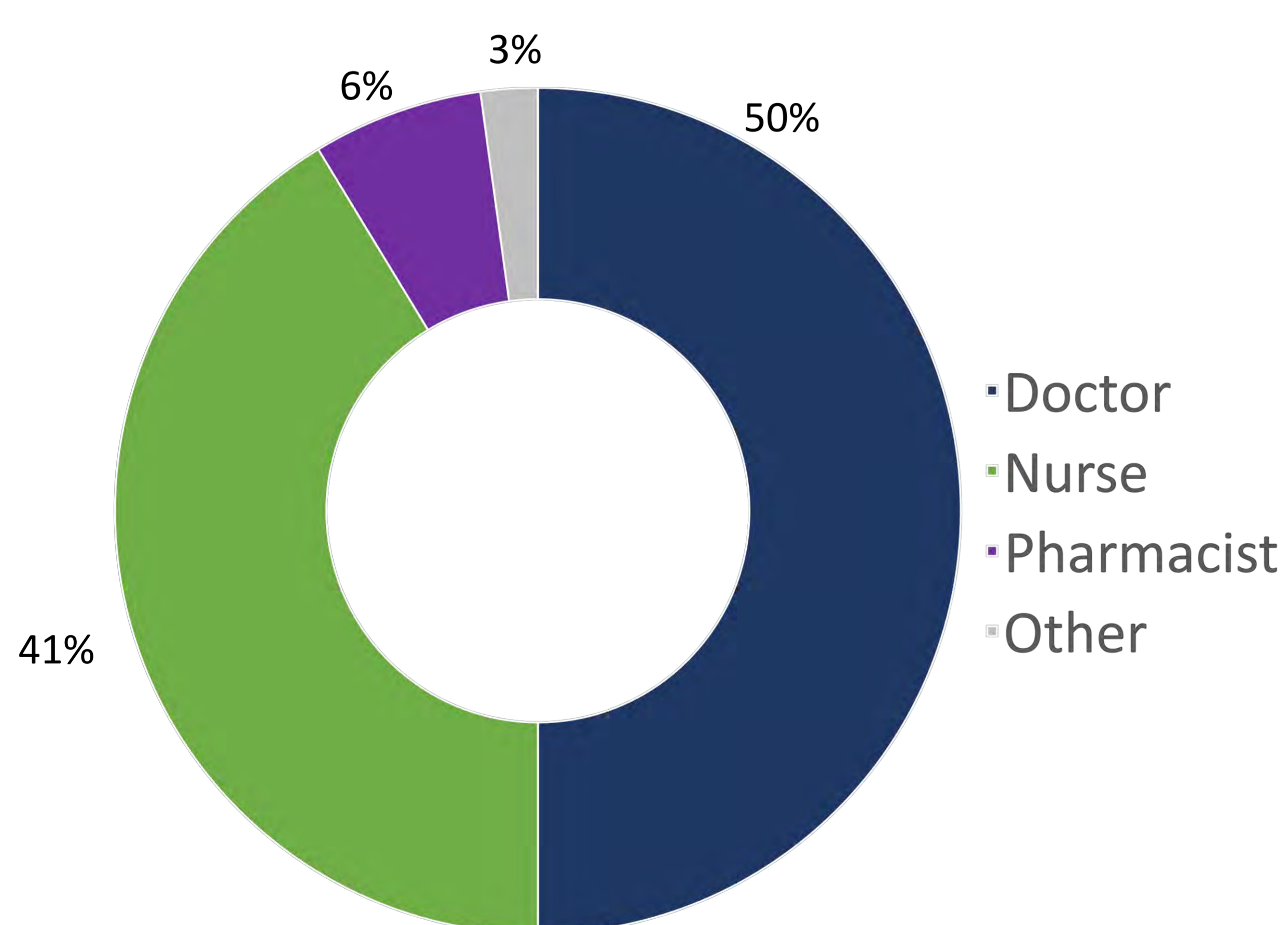
To assess current practices around communication to patients and carers in relation to prescribed antimicrobial treatment, to determine if it is in line with the recommendations in the Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standards, and the values and goals of care for Metro North and RBWH.

## Methods

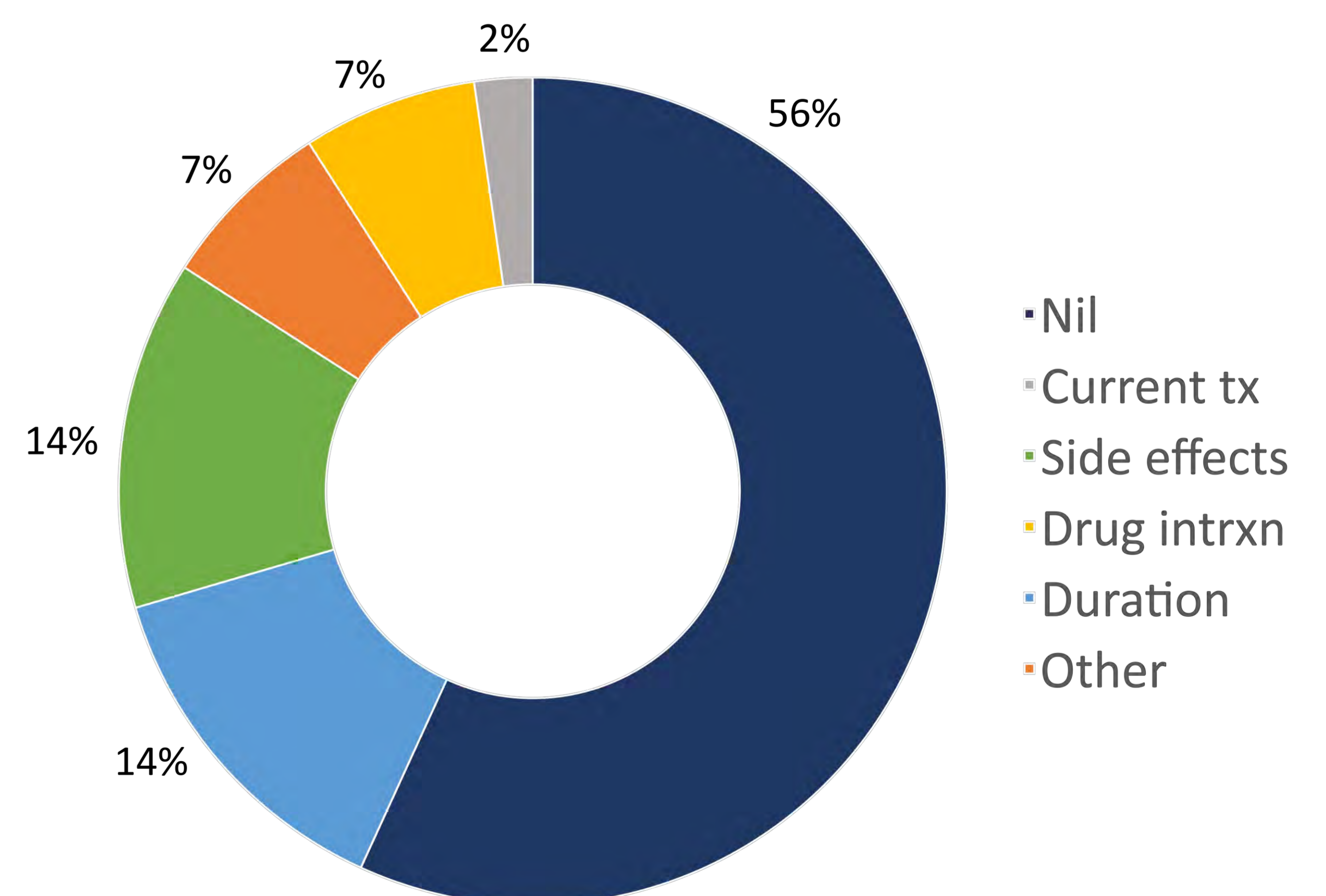
A prospective paper-based survey of patients (or carers of patients) admitted at RBWH was conducted during early March 2023. The audit collected data from patients/carers relating to their understanding of prescribed antimicrobials, how their antimicrobials were discussed with them, and how they would like to receive information about antimicrobials in the future.

## Results

- There were 37 surveys completed during the audit period.
- Of those surveyed 95% reported being told they were on an antimicrobial by a health care practitioner and 84% knew the indication for prescription.
- Doctors and Nurses were recorded as the staff that most frequently discussed antimicrobials with patients, this mostly occurred through verbal communication (81%).



**Figure 1:** Which profession the patient/carer identified as the one who provided information on antimicrobial treatment



**Figure 2:** What further information patients indicated they would like to know about their antimicrobial treatment

## Conclusion

The majority of patients captured knew that they had been prescribed an antimicrobial and had some understanding of why they were on it. This demonstrates alignment of current practice at RBWH with the Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standards. Some patients indicated they may like more written information, and there were some limitations and barriers identified in this pilot survey. As this is planned to be an ongoing quality improvement activity, future surveys will be adjusted for improvement.

## Contact Us

Sarah Risdale  
Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital  
[Sarah.Risdale@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Sarah.Risdale@health.qld.gov.au)