

Patient perspectives on inpatient antimicrobial information and confidence in Quick Response codes: an investigation

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Introduction

The Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Clinical Care Standard highlights the importance of providing antimicrobial information to patients to facilitate patient-centred care and engagement in management¹.

Inpatients want more information about their antimicrobials and pharmacists are well placed to support this². To more efficiently distribute basic pharmacy-developed patient information, Quick Response (QR) codes could be used as an easy to use, more sustainable system that has been shown to be preferred over paper leaflets for receiving consumer information³. There are no studies to the knowledge of the authors on patient perspectives on utilisation of QR codes for inpatient antimicrobial information.

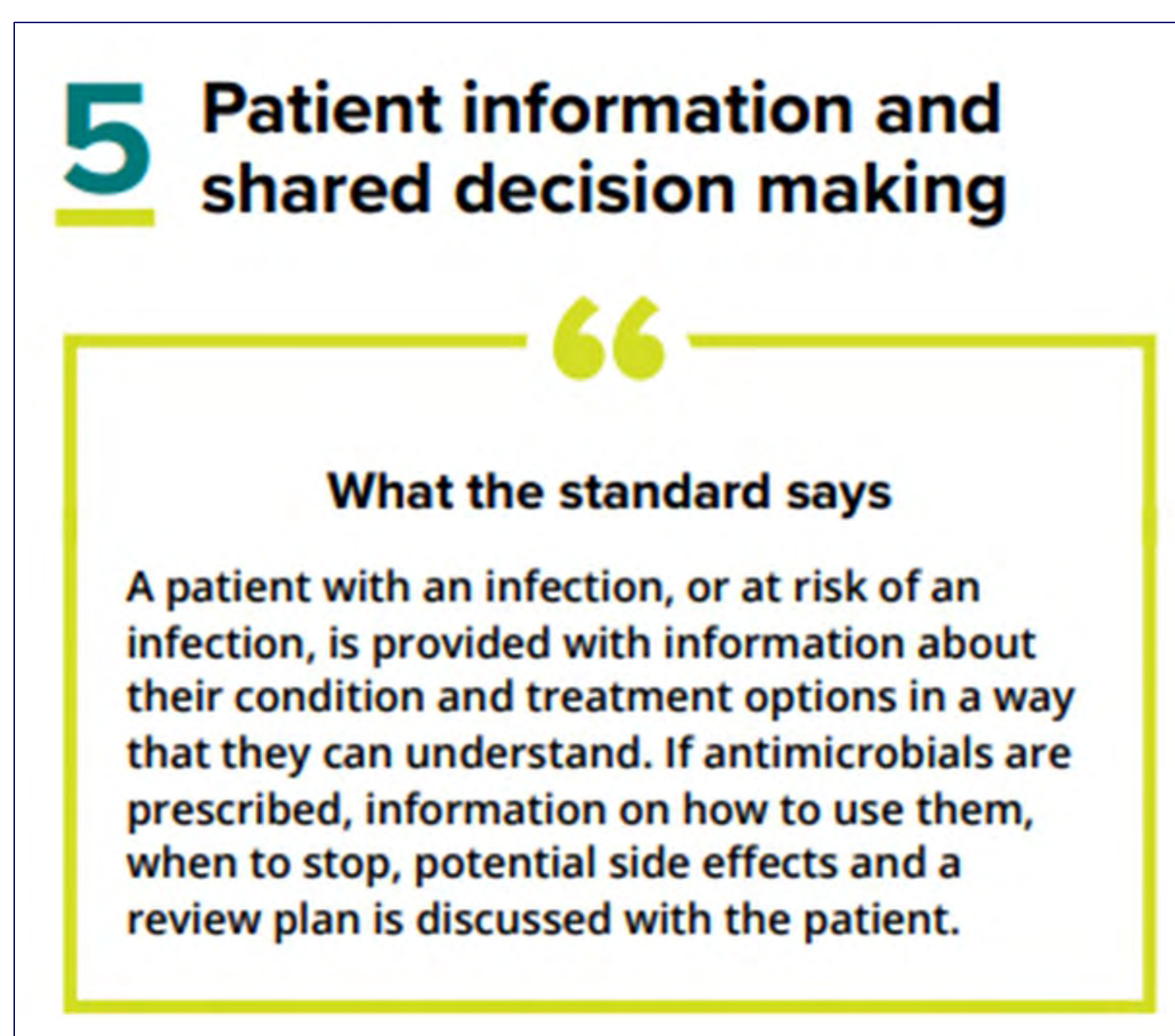


Figure 1: The Australian AMS Clinical Care Standards highlight the importance of providing antimicrobial information



Aim

To ascertain patient/carer perspectives on using QR codes in hospital for antimicrobial information while determining what information they require for future initiatives.

Methods

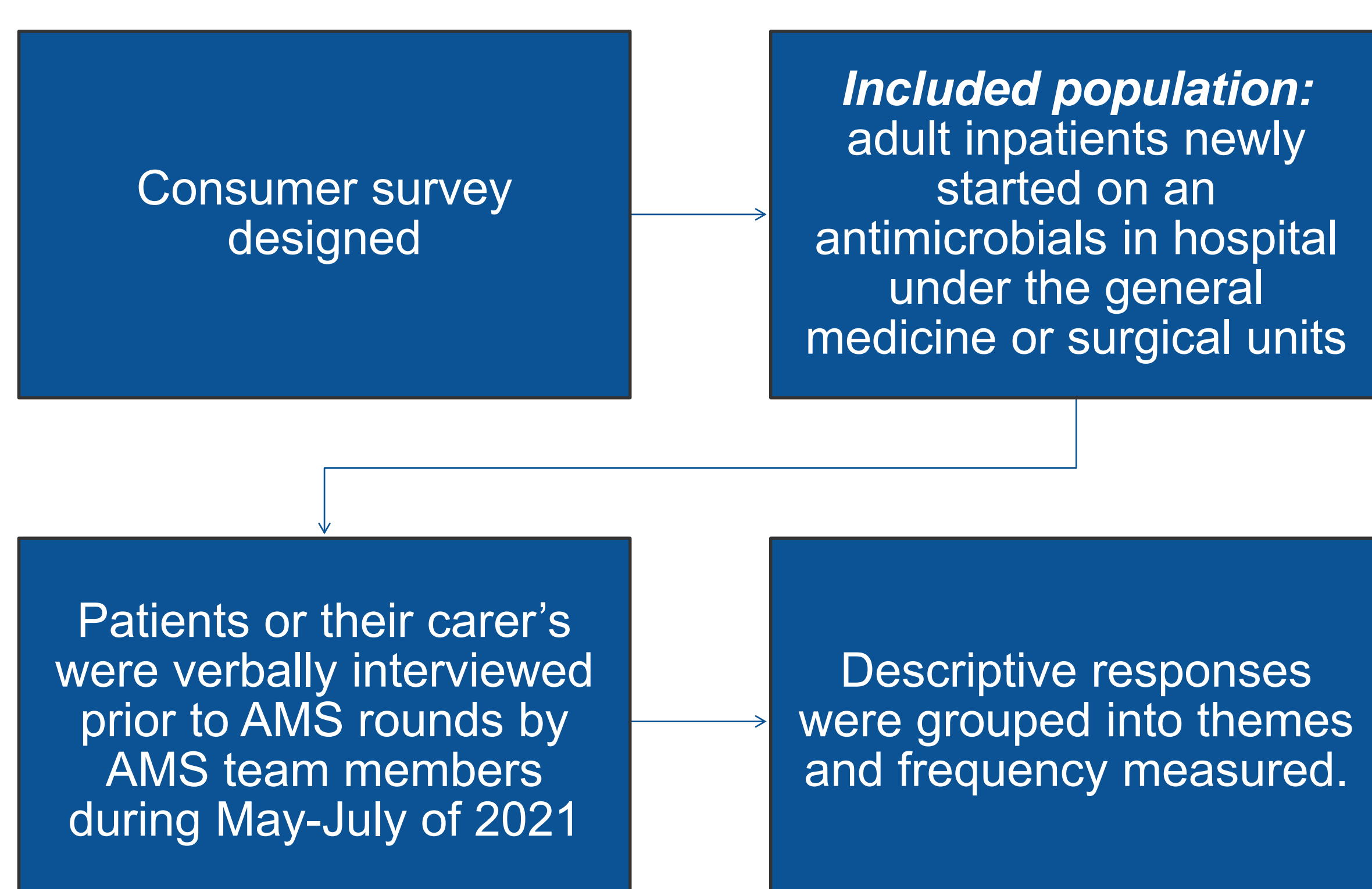


Figure 2: Method in research process

Results

A total of 51 patients and 3 carers consented to participate. 83% of participants were aware of the prescribed antimicrobials.

QR Codes

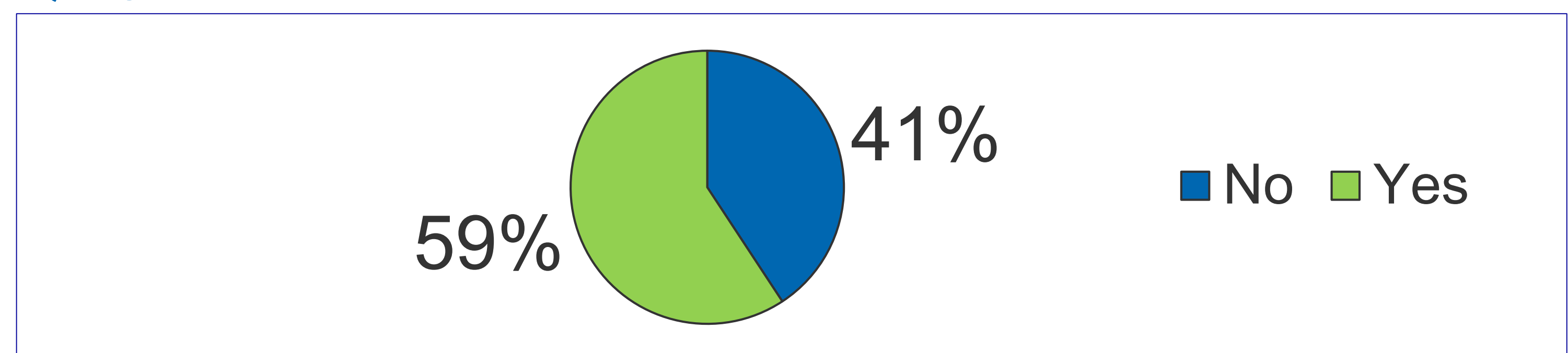


Figure 3: Were participants comfortable using QR codes to access information? 59% of participants surveyed were comfortable using QR codes to access information

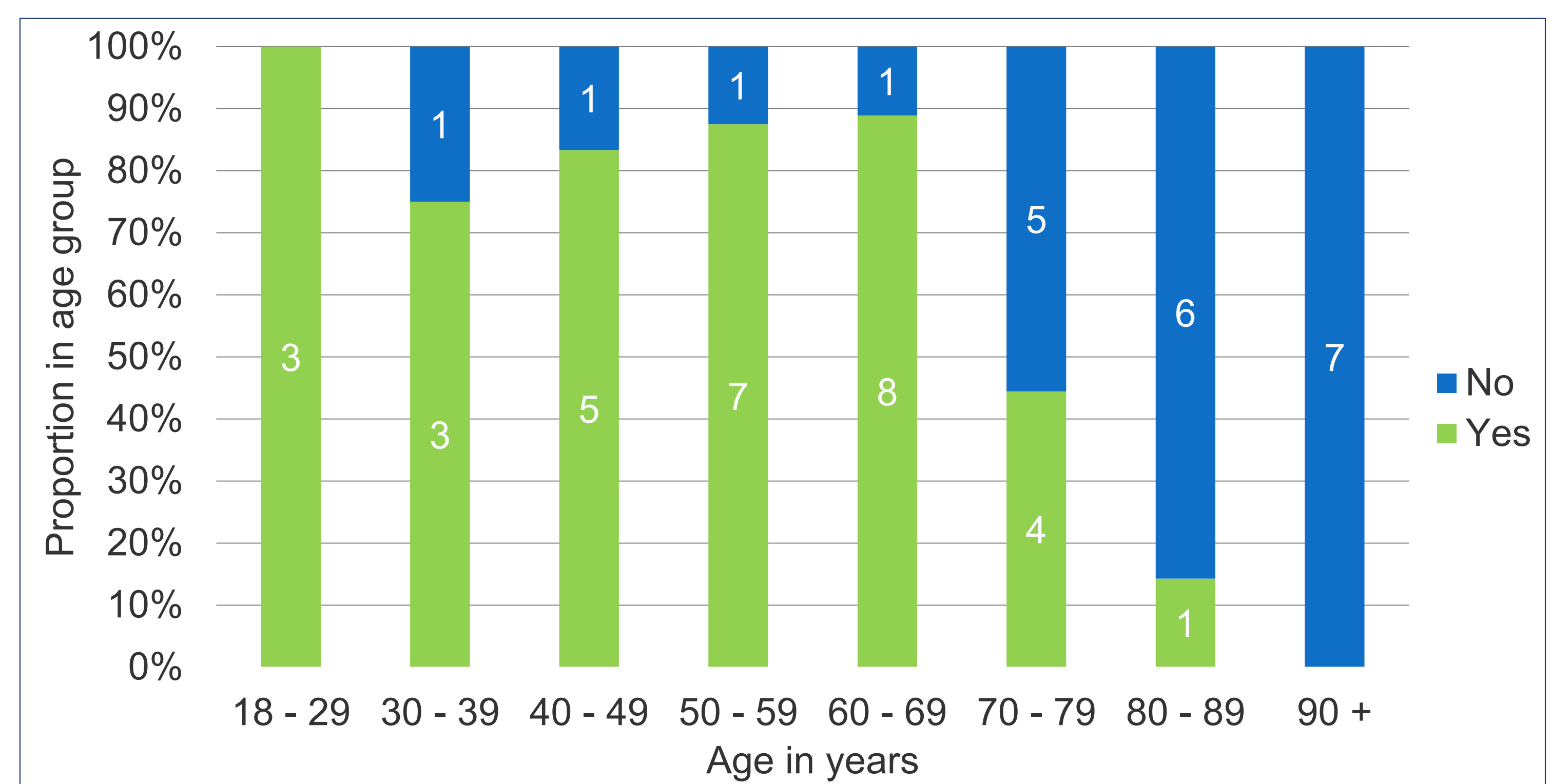


Figure 4: Participants comfortable using QR codes by age group. Proportion of participants comfortable using QR codes for information by age group in years. The largest cohort of participants uncomfortable using QR code technology were over 70 years old.

Additional Antimicrobial Information

Additional antimicrobial information was sought by 49% of participants.

27%	Why antimicrobials were prescribed
27%	General information (however did not elaborate)
17%	Potential side effects
13%	Antimicrobial plan

Figure 5: Additional information requested by participants. Four main categories were identified as the most frequent types of additional information requested by patients who sought more information about their antimicrobials.

Discussion

Pharmacists play a key role in providing medicines information, facilitating patient engagement in their inpatient management. This investigation indicates that QR codes may be a suitable aid for pharmacists delivering inpatient antimicrobial information, providing desired information through linkage to pharmacy-developed common infective indications and related antimicrobial fact sheets. Alternative methods are still required for those uncomfortable with the technology.

References

1. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard. Sydney; 2020
2. Yeoh K, George C, Rajkkowa A, Buising K. Assessing patient understanding of their antimicrobial treatment: How are we doing and how might we improve? *Infect Dis Health*. 2020;25(4):302-308
3. Azad A, Laidlaw DA, Orlans HO. Using QR smartphone technology to improve patient communication and information distribution. *Nature Eye*. 2022;36:1321-1322