

Home Infusion vs Infusion Centers:

Factors Related to Staff, Provider and Patient Preferences on Infusion Sites of Care

Ariana Double, PharmD; Alicia Zagal, PhD, MPH; R. May O'Donnell, MS; Alicia Ranasinghe, PharmD, IgCP – Fairview Pharmacy Services, Minneapolis, MN

BACKGROUND

- Continual growth within the market of infusion therapies has begun to exceed capacities available to ambulatory infusion centers.^{1,2,3}
- Home infusion is a viable solution to reduce this strain.^{1,2,3}
- Home infusion may also benefit patients, health systems, and payers.^{1,2,3}
- In practice, some providers and their patients have reservations about transitioning to home infusion services.^{2,4}

PURPOSE

This study sought to understand infusion staff, provider, and patient opinions on infusion sites of care by:

- Surveying patients who have been infused at an ambulatory infusion center and at home infusion; and
- Surveying staff who are involved in infusion care

METHODS

Prospective, survey-based study of patients and staff who:

Patient Inclusion Criteria

- Are 18 years of age or older
- Are English-speaking
- Have an email on file
- Received treatment in an ambulatory infusion center and home infusion within the same health system between January 2023 and December 2023

Staff Inclusion Criteria

- Health system providers and staff who assist patients in site of care decisions

- Patients received surveys via email, and staff received surveys via email or could scan a QR code for access.
- Results were summarized using common descriptive statistics and comparisons made using chi-squared and t-tests.

RESULTS

Patient

226 patients responded to the survey and met inclusion criteria, with a median (IQR) age of 62.5 (49.5, 69.1) years. Most patients who responded were biologic/specialty (N=75, 33.2%) or oncology patients (N=70, 31.0%) .

Figure 1. Patient perceptions of home infusion and ambulatory infusion centers

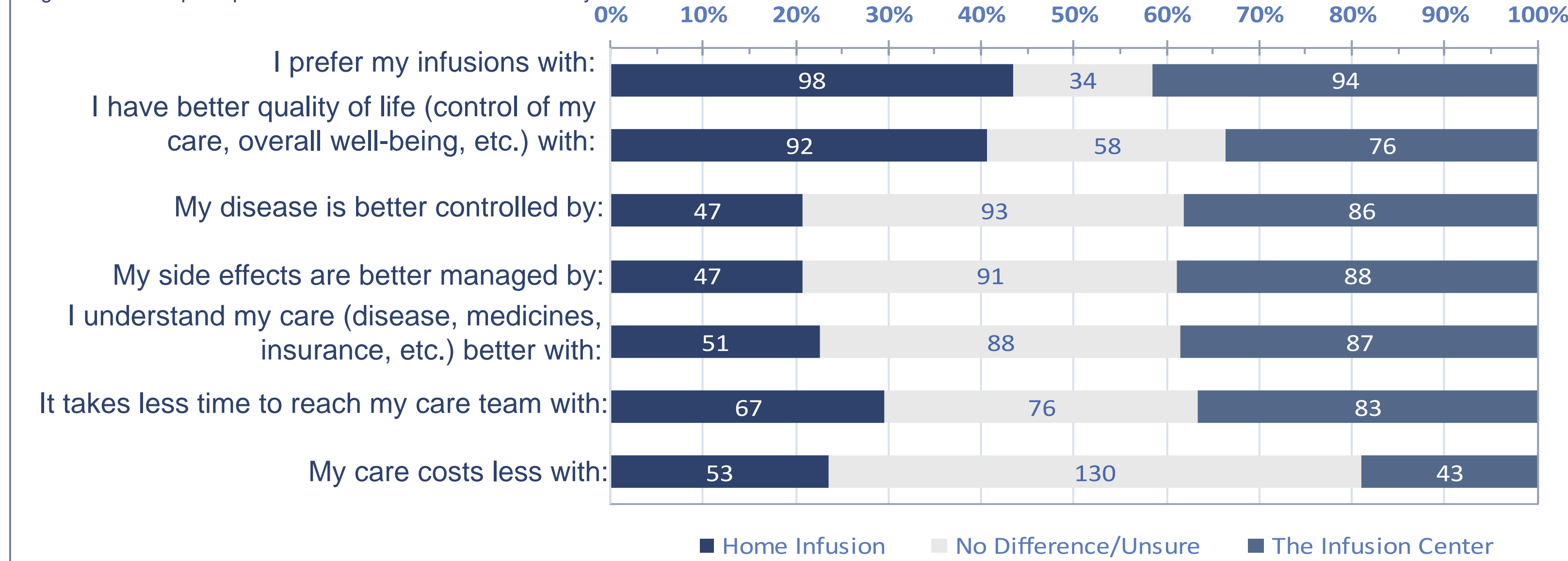


Figure 2a. Patient preferences and perceptions of quality of life by infusion therapy category

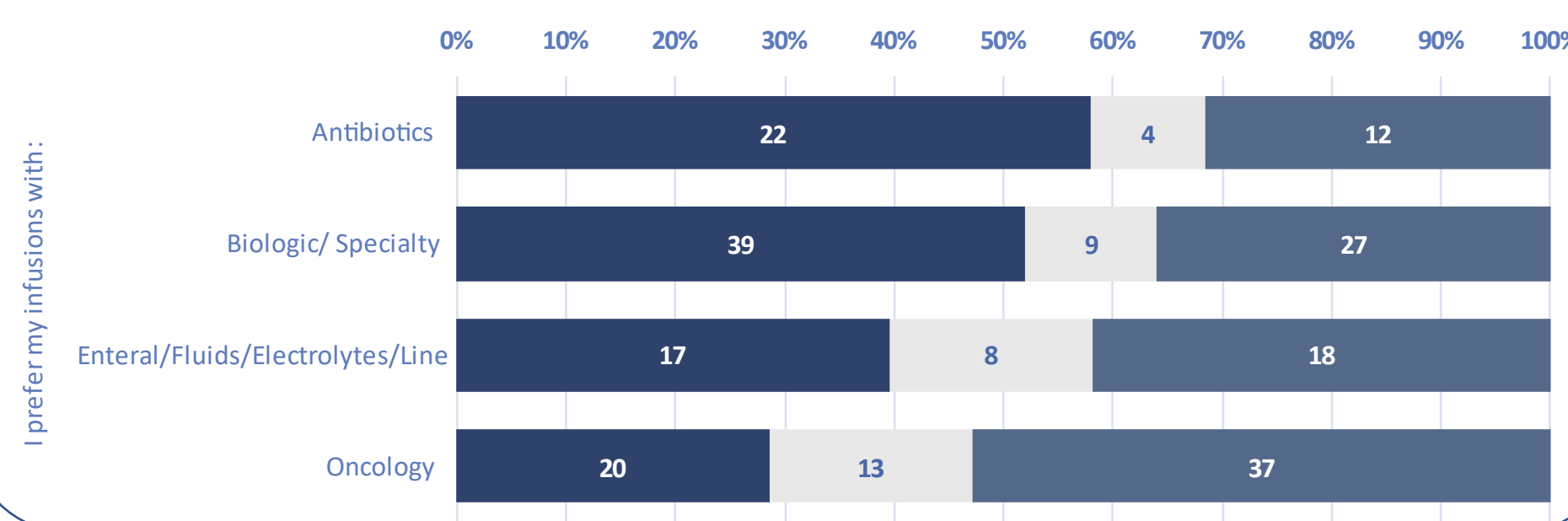
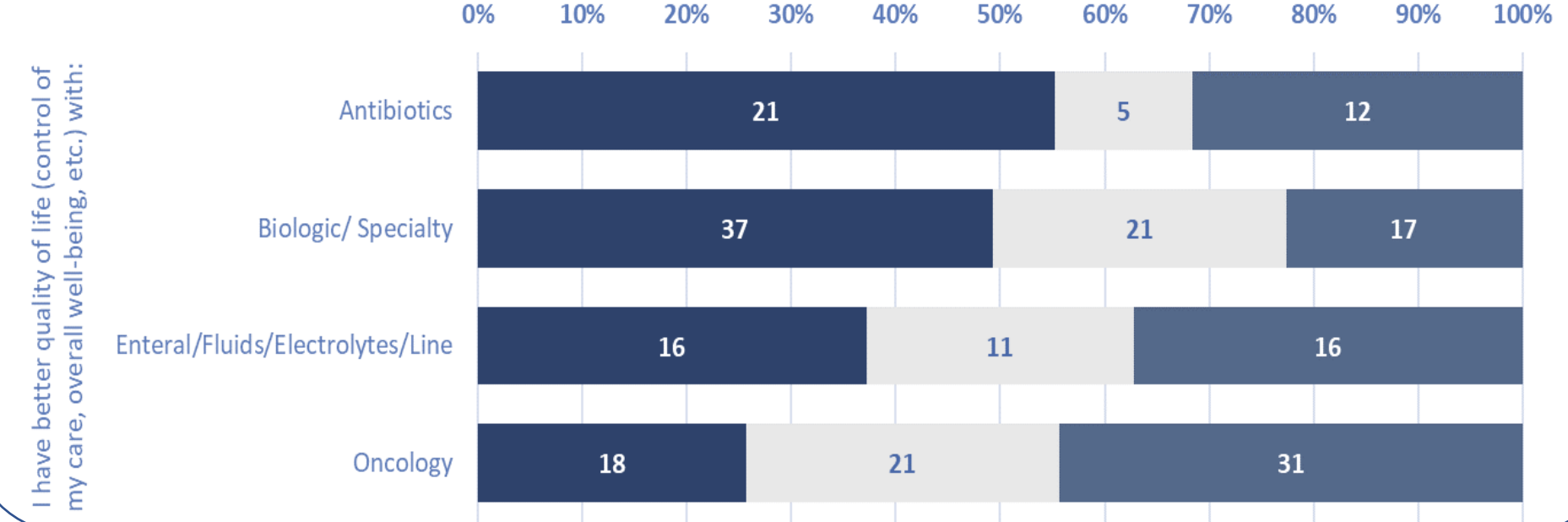


Figure 2b. Patient preferences and perceptions of quality of life by infusion therapy category



Staff

77 staff included in the data set; 18 providers, 53 medical support staff, and 6 administrative support staff

Figure 3. I send/ recommend patients to home infusion when they are eligible:

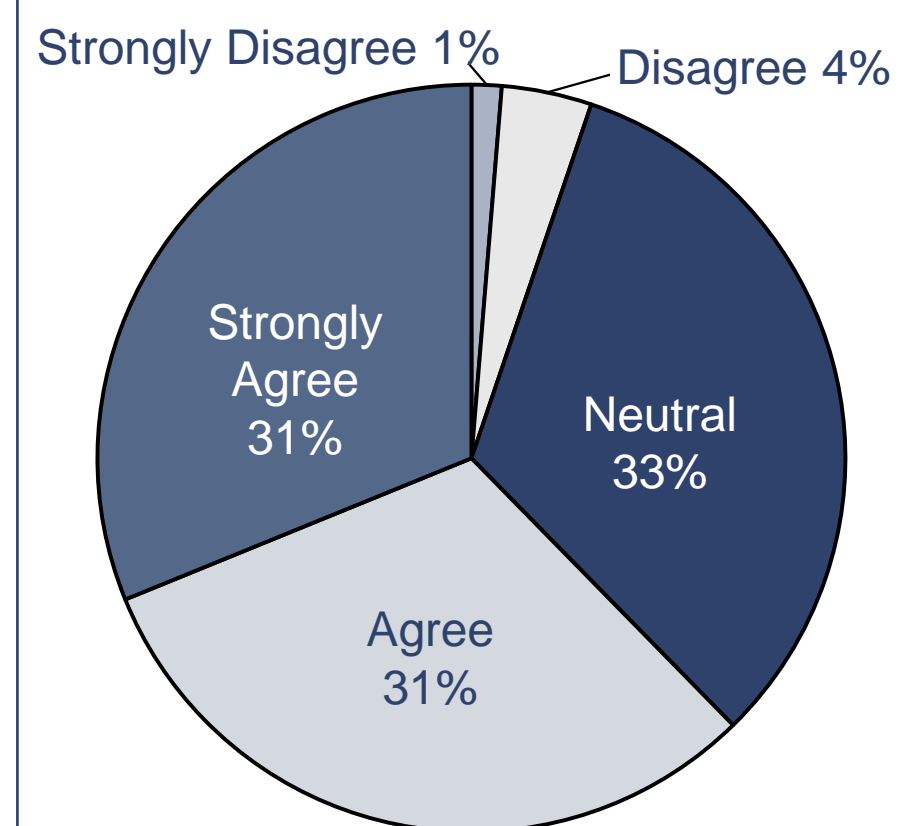


Figure 4a. Providers: I prefer when my patients are infused at:

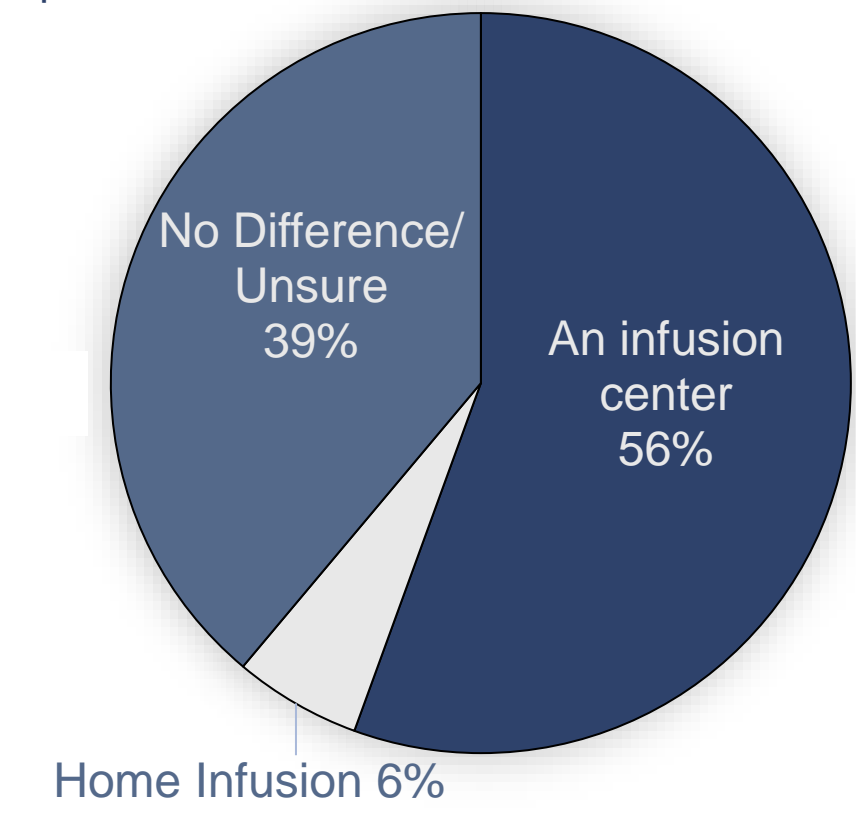


Figure 4. Staff perceptions of home infusion and ambulatory infusion centers

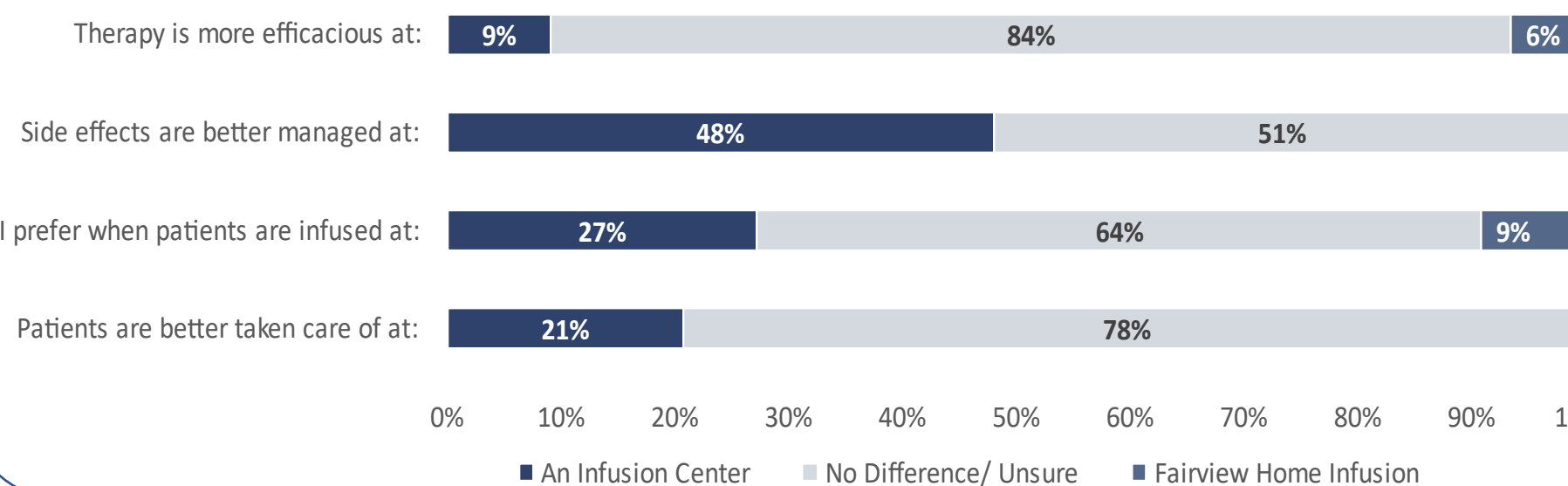
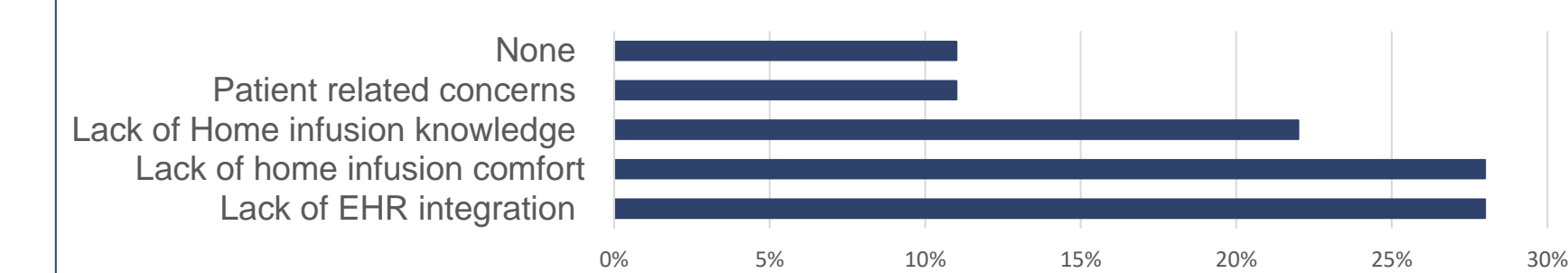


Figure 5. Provider hesitations of home infusion



DISCUSSION

Patients:

- Generally, prefer infusion therapy and have better quality of life through home infusion services (Figure 1).
- Receiving antibiotic and biologic/ specialty therapy tend to prefer home infusion more than patients receiving oncology therapy (Figure 2).

Staff:

- Generally, send and recommend patients to home infusion. Across multiple variables, staff generally tend to have no preference between infusion sites of care (Figure 4).
- Providers indicate a strong preference for infusion center therapy for their patients', citing hesitations of lack of EHR integration and lack of home infusion knowledge and comfort (Figures 4 and 5).

CONCLUSION

Despite research indicating the safety of home infusion, survey results note that both patients and providers are apprehensive about utilizing home infusion services. Results identify the current opinions and preferences of staff and patients regarding infusion sites of care. These findings identify key areas of focus for initiatives to allay concerns through systemwide education and targeted collaboration, and innovation within home infusion.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- A large-scale study, beyond one health system
- An evaluation of patients receiving infusions to understand hesitations of home infusion
- Integration within one electronic medical record

REFERENCES

- Home Infusion Market Report Vizient 2022. <https://vizientinc-delivery.sitecorecontenthub.cloud/api/public/content/199dfe2423445db823e4dcc5a2b2ac2?v=74109858>.
- Home Infusion Therapy Market Size, Share & Trends Analysis Report by Product (Infusion Pumps, Needleless Connectors), by Application (Antiinfective, Chemotherapy), by Region, and Segment Forecasts, 2022-2030, January 2022.
- National Home Infusion Foundation 2020 Trend Report. Accessed September 2023.
- de la Torre BG, Albericio F. The Pharmaceutical Industry in 2021. An Analysis of FDA Drug Approvals from the Perspective of Molecules. Molecules. 2022 Feb 5;27(3):1075. doi: 10.3390/molecules27031075. PMID: 35164339; PMCID: PMC8839730.