

Advanced Care Planning (ACP) Counseling

Harshavardhan Nalam MD, Ashley Pepple MD, Matthew Welter MD, Anuradha Gore MD, Sanyogita Chandra MD, Calie Brownlee MD, Cole Howie MD, Todd Wiblin MD, Reed Johnson MD

University of Iowa Health Care Medical Center, Internal Medicine Residency Program & Division of General Internal Medicine, Iowa City, IA, USA

Background

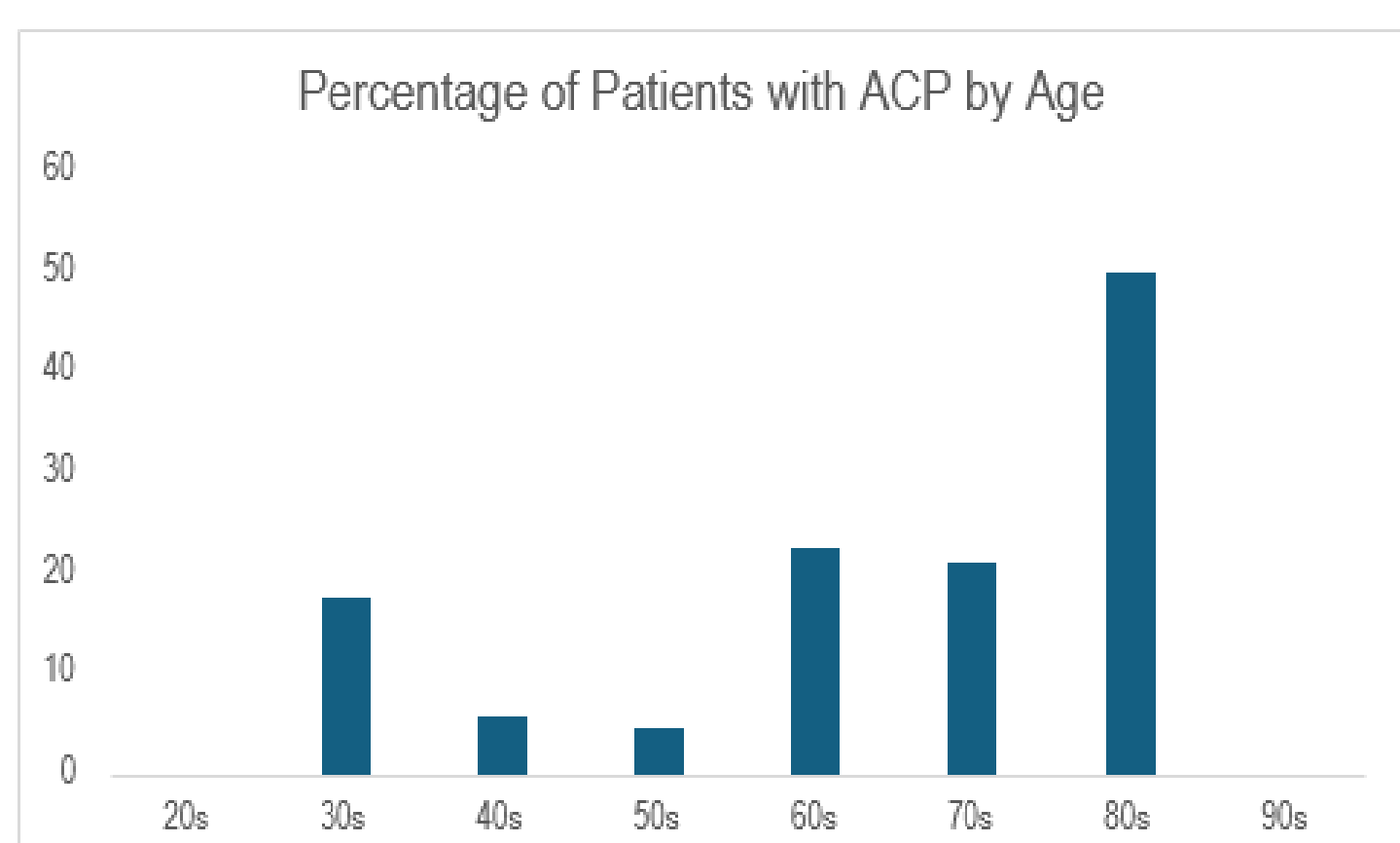
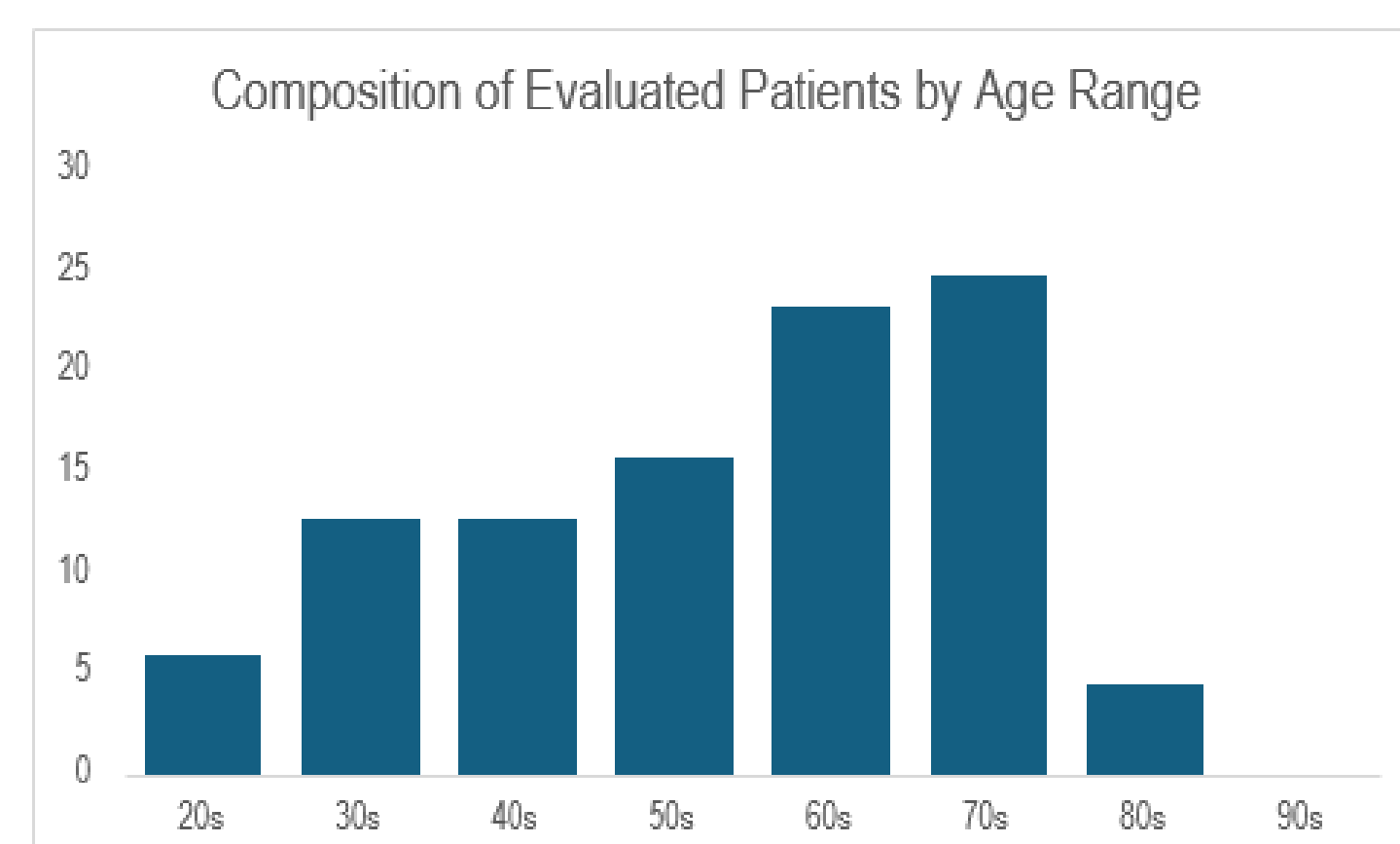
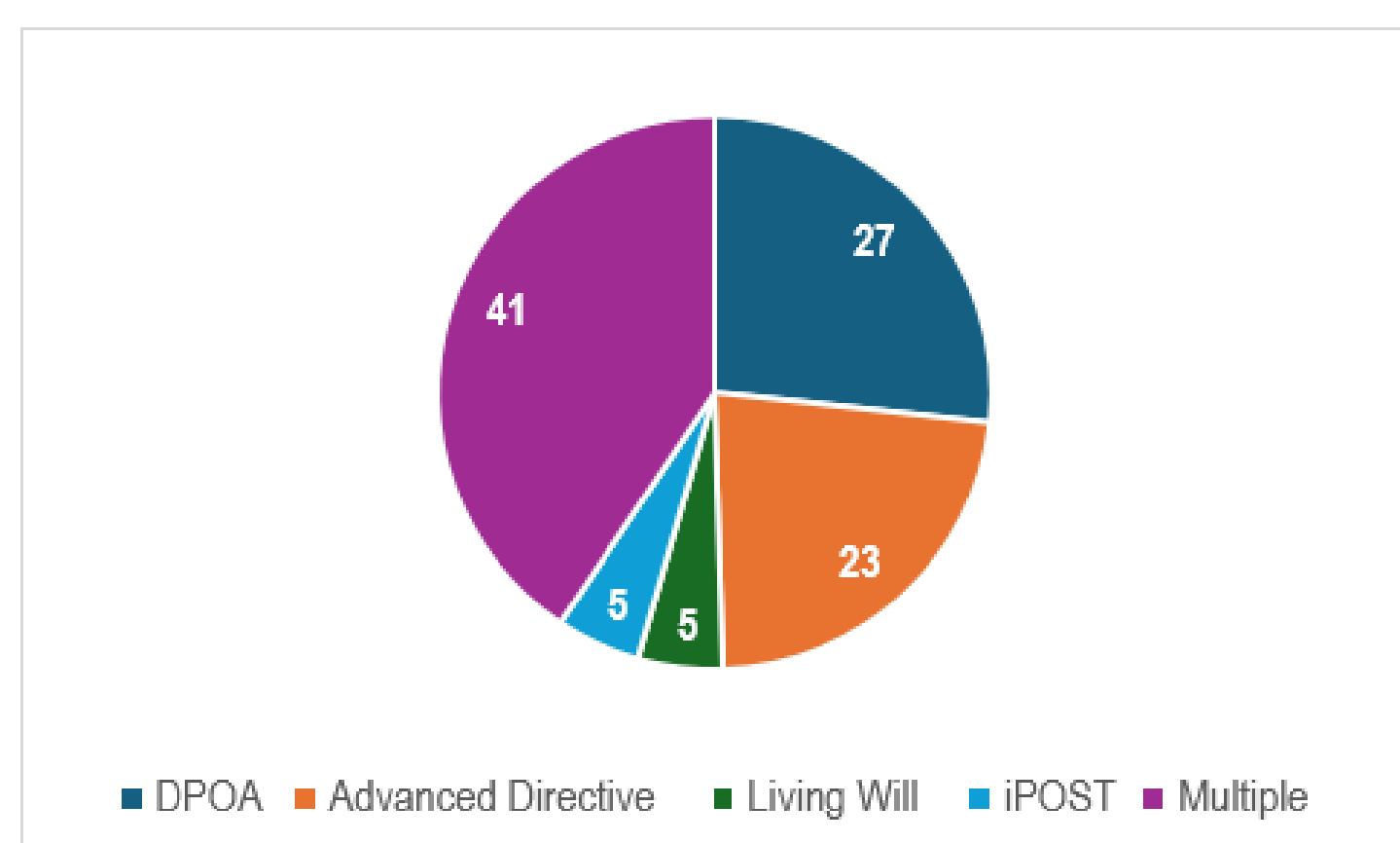
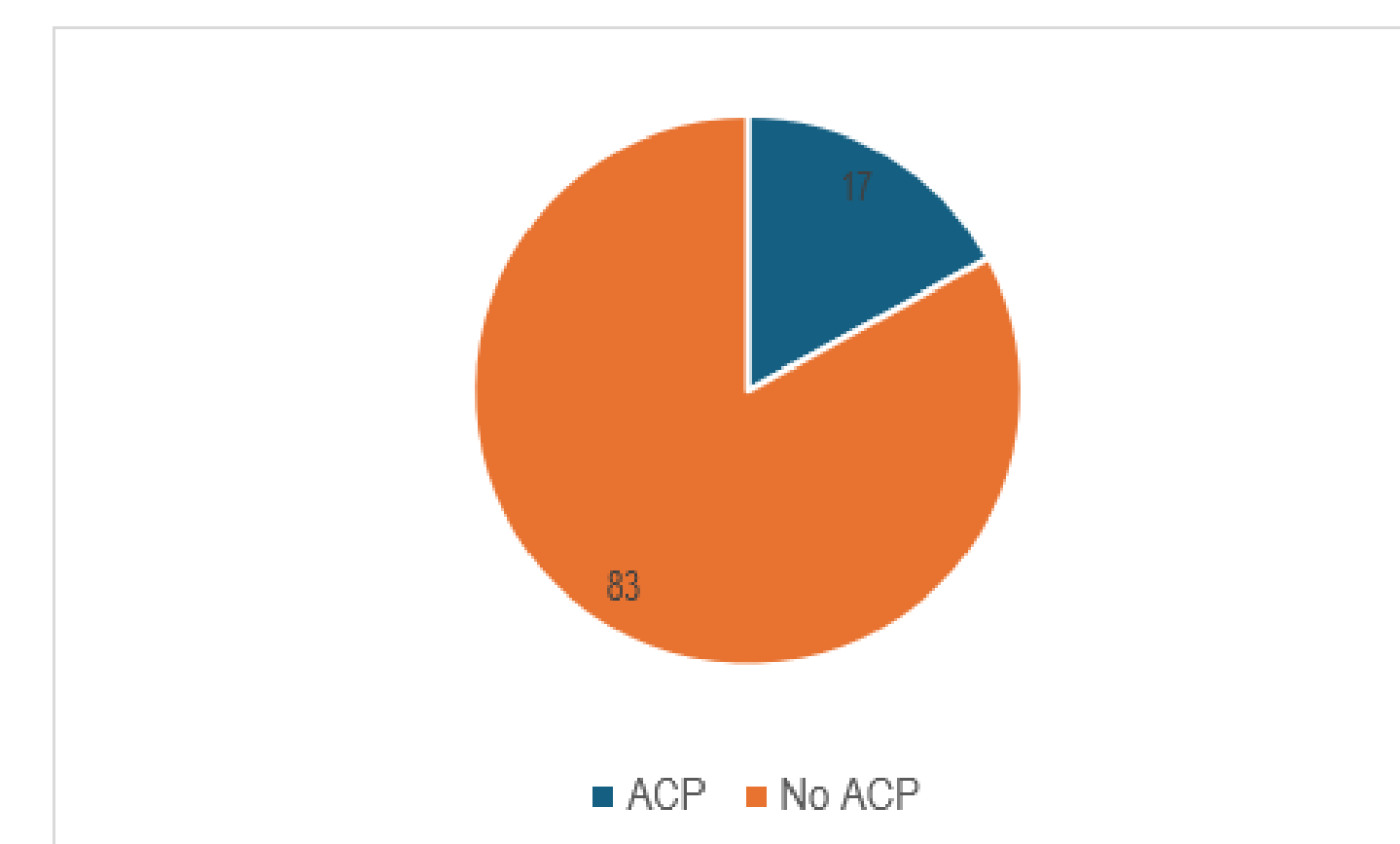
ACP conversations best occur in the primary care setting

- Integrating ACP **prompts into EHRs** for adults aged 45-85 increased advanced directive completion rates by 40%¹.
- After implementing **structured conversation guides** for patients aged 60 and above, there was a 25% increase in documented ACP conversations².
- In patients with chronic illness aged 50 and older, this project utilized **decision aids** and resulted in improved patients' knowledge and satisfaction scores³.
- Longitudinal study that shows an increase the ACP document completions after a **reminder notification** was sent to both patient and provider⁴.
- Previous research noted the following interventions led to increased measures of ACP conversation documentation, completion of ACP documentation, provider confidence, and patient satisfaction:
 - Provider curriculum
 - Structured conversation guides
 - Decision guides
 - Standardized questionnaires
 - Prompts in the EMR

Aim

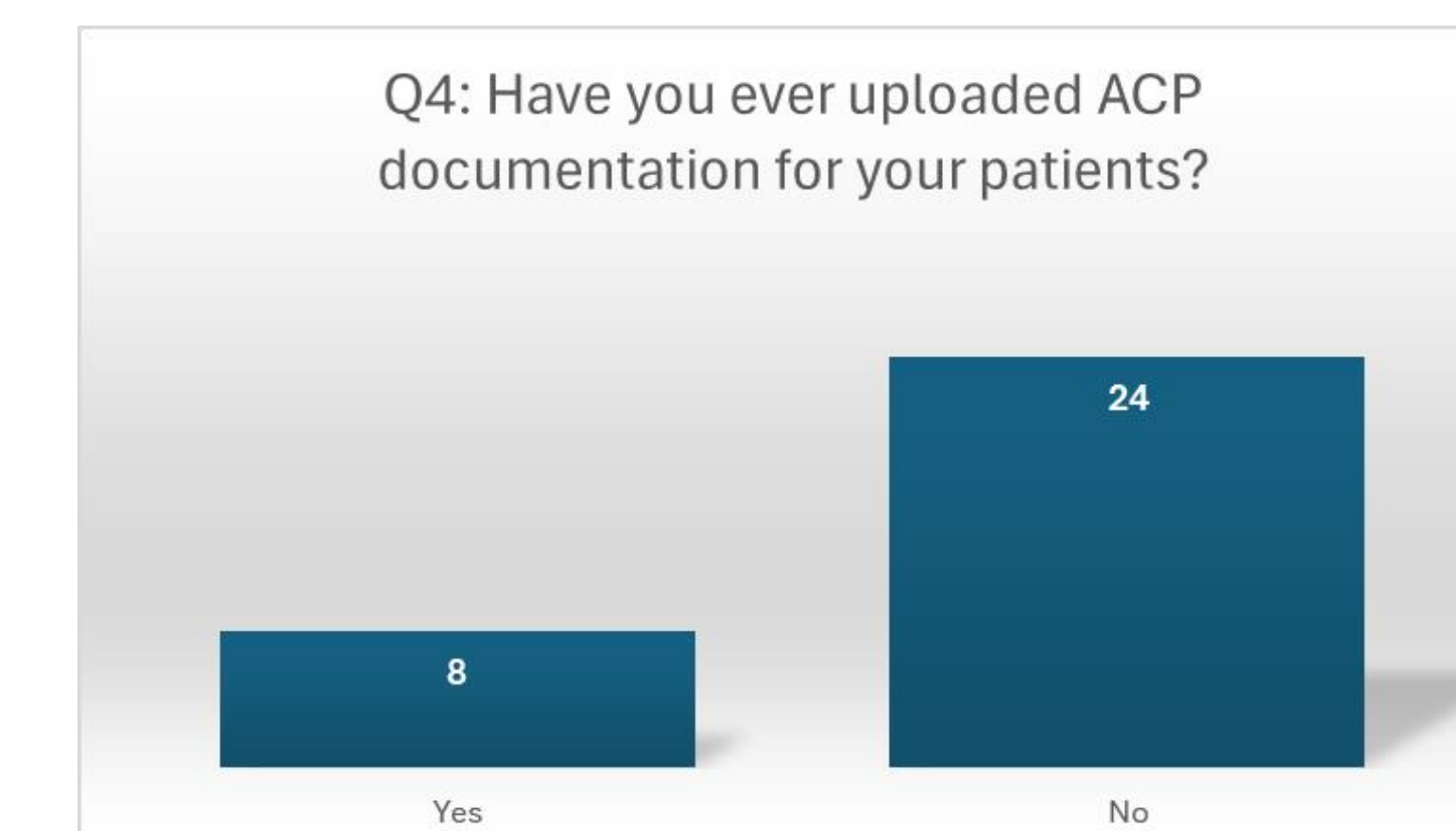
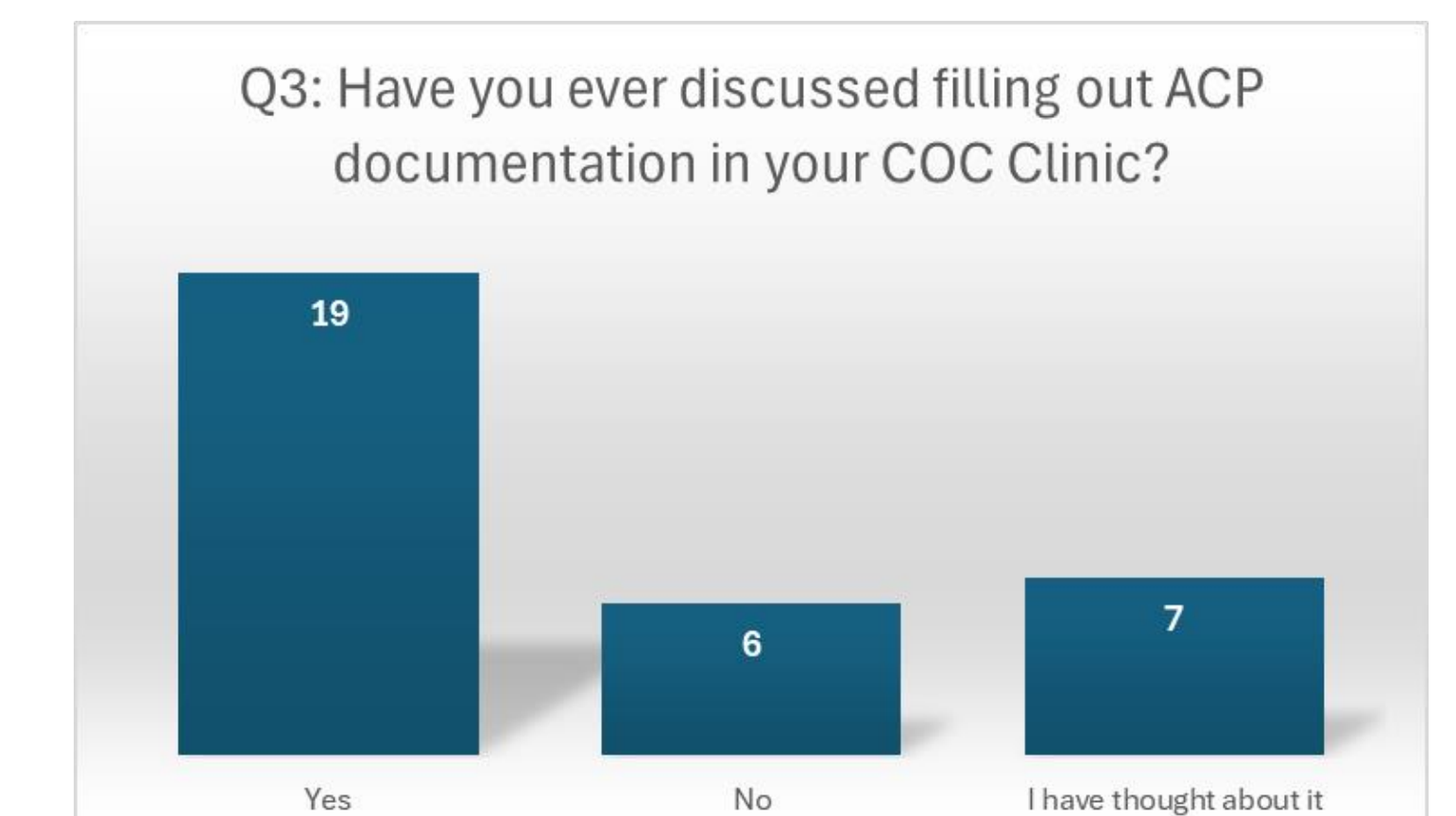
Increase the number of patients in the resident internal medicine primary care clinic with ACP documentation.

Pre-Intervention Data



- Review of our patient panel over one week (100 patients) noted 83 were without ACP documentation
- Of those with uploaded documentation, 41% had numerous documents available (advanced directive, DPOA, living will, etc.)

Pre Education Survey



- Residents feel comfortable discussing ACP documentation with patients, but a majority are either not involved or unaware of the process to upload it into patients' charts.

Next Steps

- Screening in healthcare maintenance (HCM) tab to assess if ACP documentation is completed
- Add best practice advisory reminder
- Lecture/review with incoming and current residents on completing ACP documentation
- Structured dot phrase to guide resident physician conversation
- Post Education survey of residents

Conclusion

- A majority of our patient panel does not have completed ACP documentation even though research has shown this is best done in a primary care setting
- Changes including adding an ACP documentation questionnaire in the HCM tab, discussion of ACP documentation, and resident education can improve completion rate

References

1. Lakin JR, Gundersen DA, Lindvall C, Paasche-Orlow MK, Tulsky JA, Brannen EN, Pollak KI, Kennedy D, McLeggon JA, Stout JJ, Volandes A; ACP-PEACE Investigators. A Yet Unrealized Promise: Structured Advance Care Planning Elements in the Electronic Health Record. *J Palliat Med.* 2021 Aug;24(8):1221-1225. doi: 10.1089/jpm.2020.0774. Epub 2021 Apr 7. PMID: 33826860; PMCID: PMC8309417.
2. Coster JE, Ter Maat GH, Pentinga ML, Reyners AKL, van Veldhuisen DJ, de Graeff P. A pilot study on the effect of advance care planning implementation on healthcare utilisation and satisfaction in patients with advanced heart failure. *Neth Heart J.* 2022 Sep;30(9):436-441. doi: 10.1007/s12471-022-01705-8. Epub 2022 Jun 21. PMID: 35727493; PMCID: PMC9402875.
3. Steel A, Bertfield D. Increasing advance care planning in the secondary care setting: A quality improvement project. *Future Healthc J.* 2020 Jun;7(2):137-142. doi: 10.7861/fhj.2019-0040. PMID: 32550281; PMCID: PMC7296584.
4. Halpert KD, Ward K, Sloane PD. Improving Advance Care Planning Documentation Using Reminders to Patients and Physicians: A Longitudinal Study in Primary Care. *Am J Hosp Palliat Care.* 2022 Jan;39(1):62-67. doi: 10.1177/10499091211004890. Epub 2021 Mar 23. PMID: 33754838.
5. Sacks OA, Murphy M, O'Malley J, Birkmeyer N, Barnato AE. A Quality Improvement Initiative for Inpatient Advance Care Planning. *JAMA Health Forum.* 2024;5(10):e243172. doi:10.1001/jamahealthforum.2024.3172