




Background

- Outpatient Pharmacy Services (OPS) is a specialty pharmacy integrated within the Yale New Haven Health System.
- The specialty pharmacy model enables collaboration between payors, providers and patients. Hence, specialty pharmacies are uniquely positioned to deliver patient-centric care.
- In addition to dispensing and delivering the medications, specialty pharmacies also offer extensive initial education, 24/7 access to a specialty pharmacist, regular reassessments, medication assistance, and prior authorization assistance for the providers.
- Specialty pharmacists at OPS are integrated into the health system and work closely with the practice site nurses at the Cancer Hospital.
- Interprofessional training programs, and pharmacist led chemotherapy education programs for nurses have shown to improve patient outcomes and reduce knowledge deficits among nursing personnel.^{1,2}
- With the increasing approvals of oral oncolytics in recent years, the nursing leadership identified a knowledge gap among oncology practice nurses. We created the ongoing educational series to close the knowledge gap and increase interdisciplinary collaboration between the two teams.


Objective

- To implement an ongoing education series for the oncology practice nurses on oral oncolytics and the specialty pharmacy process.

Methods

 A multidisciplinary team consisting of the nurse manager, senior clinical specialist, and specialty pharmacist collaborated on the creation of an educational series catered to the outpatient oncology practice nurses

 The pharmacy team developed a list of tentative topics including new oral oncolytics, relevant specialty pharmacy topics such as prior authorizations, medication assistance, hazardous med handling etc. The team also recruited potential speakers from the different departments.

 An electronic survey was sent out to both nursing and pharmacist colleagues at the Cancer Center to assess satisfaction with the series.

Results

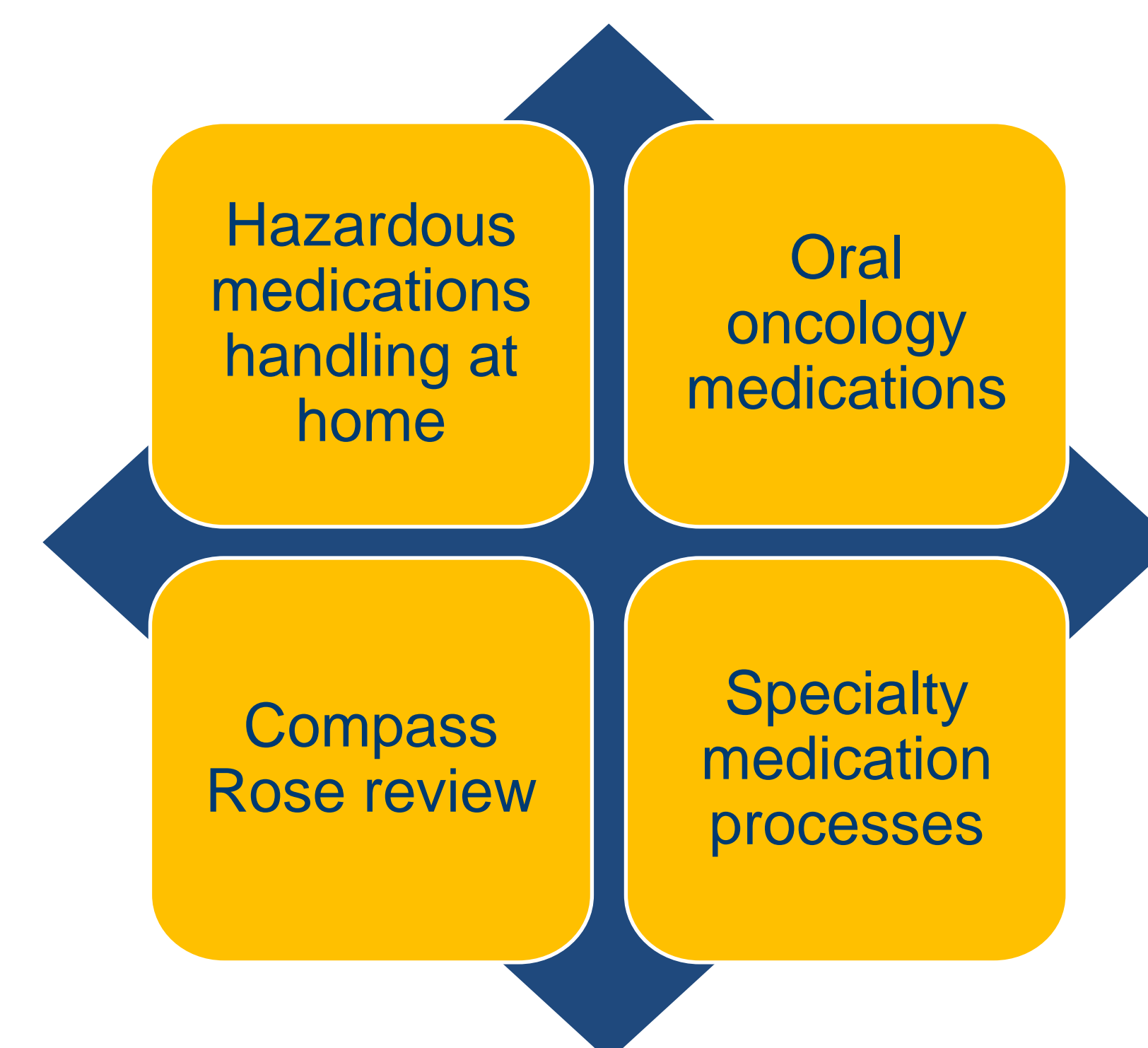
Some Staff Testimonials

30-year-old with a brain tumor on lomustine and procarbazine with difficulty swallowing. Michele's presentation was excellent. Michele was kind enough to speak to patient and mother on speaker while in our office to help with swallowing issues and the patient was able to get through his treatment. Michelle's help was instrumental and gave the practice nurses the resources that could help this lovely patient and his mother during this very difficult time.

Learning about the different drug classes and adverse effects to look for has been great in addition to the lecture on Compass Rose being extremely helpful.

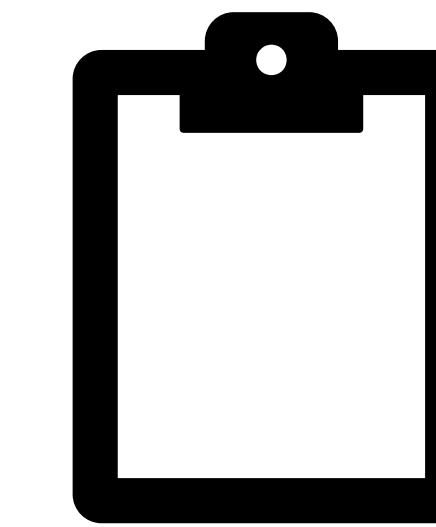
The education series are fantastic and at this point the only education that we get on oral oncolytics unless we do the research ourself.

Examples of Education Series Topics



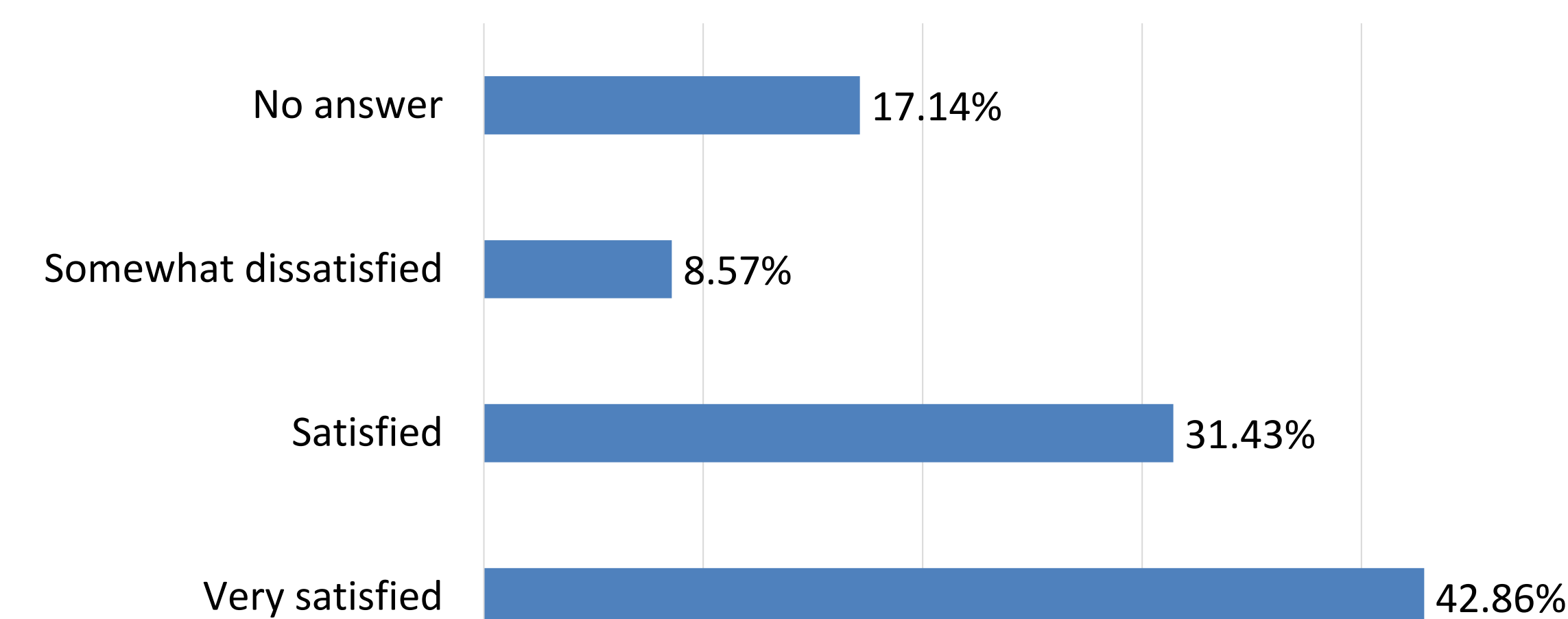
Examples of Education Series Topics

- Oral chemotherapy pharmacist reassessments and education
- Medication assistance programs
- Dissolving and crushing oral chemotherapy
- Compass Rose Overview Oral Oncology Perspective
- CDK 4,6 Inhibitors
- BTK and BCL2 Inhibitors Oral Treatment for CLL
- Tivozanib

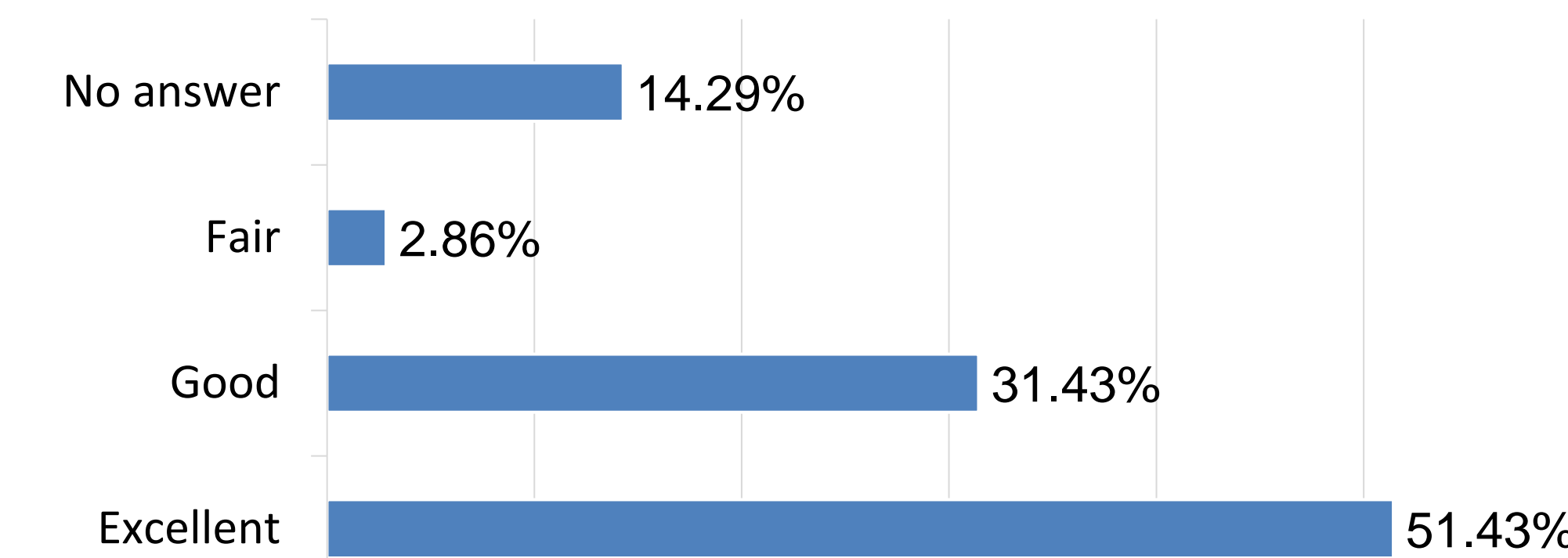


17% Survey response

How satisfied are you with the RN/OPS Pharmacist Education Series?



Rate the quality of the presentations you have attended

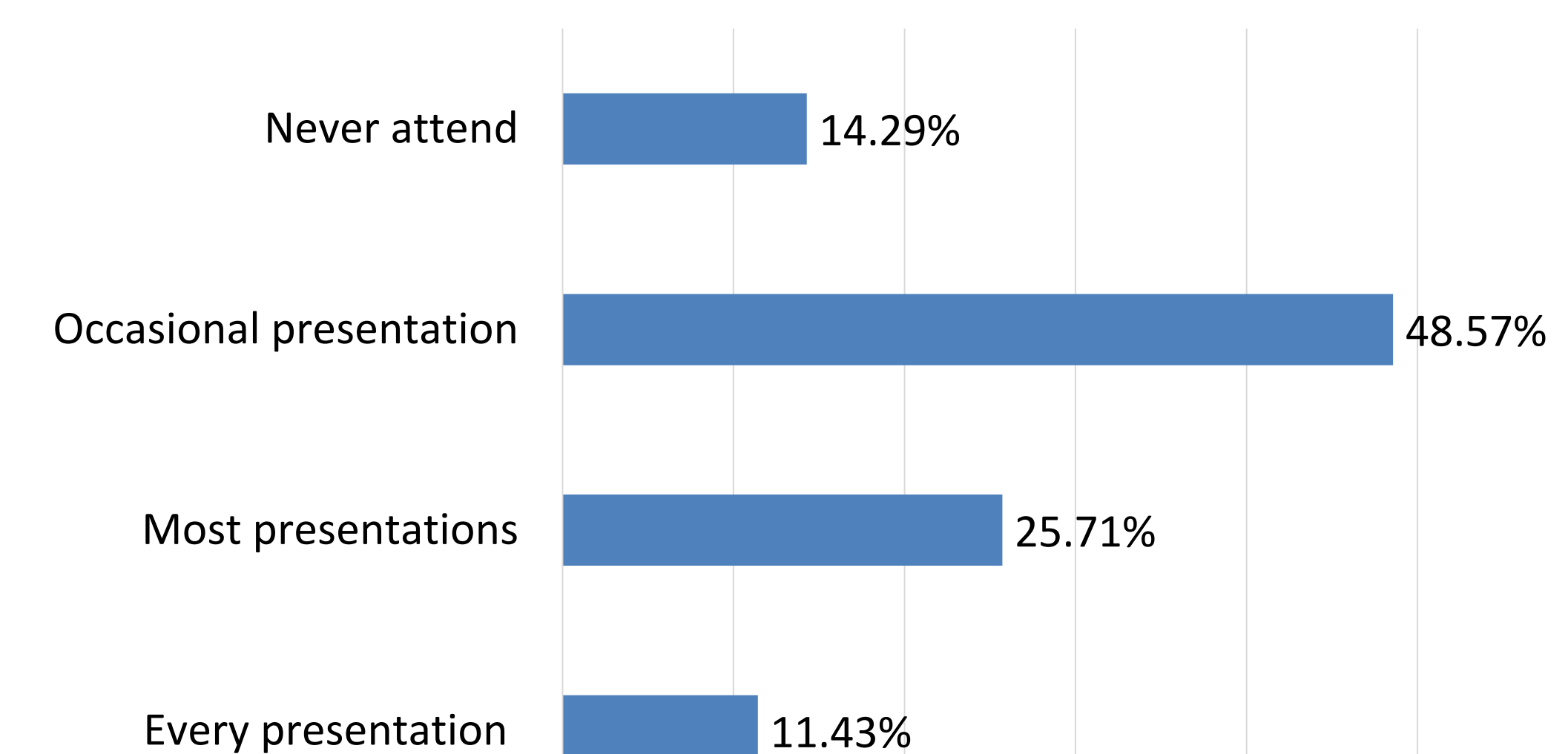


Attendance Barriers



48.6% Presentation time
20% Patient Load

How often do you attend the Oral Oncology RN Education Series?



Discussion

- This series was initiated in August 2021. In February 2022, the series invitation was extended to all cancer center RNs and clinical pharmacists from the initial three practice sites.
- We surveyed participants in May 2022 and Aug 2023 to gauge interest and satisfaction in the series.
- In the survey disseminated May 2022, 62.5% of survey participants responded that they were likely to use the information "very often" in their practice. For future educational topics, majority of participants preferred education on oncolytic medications with 50% preferring a review of oral oncolytic therapeutic classes and 38% preferring education on new oral oncolytics. We incorporated the suggestions in developing future presentation content.
- In August 2023, we sent a survey to the entire list serv of the practice oncology nurses. About 17% of the nurses responded; 74.29% expressed satisfaction with the education series with 51.43% rating the quality of presentations as "excellent".
- However, only 11.43% of respondents attended every session of the series. Of the potential barriers to attendance, 48.6% of the respondents felt the presentation time and 20% felt patient load was a barrier for attendance.
- In May 2023, we transitioned into a new clinical documentation platform for specialty pharmacy. This forum was utilized for educating the oncology practice nurses in addition to the usual clinic outreach education. The session was well received with requests for additional sessions.

Conclusions

- A successful nurse education series was implemented in an integrated specialty pharmacy. Specialty pharmacists play a vital role in closing the educational gap among the nursing staff.

Future Directions

- Increase attendance at the nursing educational series
- Development of a continuing education series accredited by the ANCC and ACPE

References

- Fisher CM, Kim AJ, Elder JJ. Impact of a Pharmacist-Led Chemotherapy Education Program on the Knowledge of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses. J Pediatr Pharmacol Ther. 2017;22(5):332-337.
- Aebersold ML, Kraft S, Farris KB, et al. Evaluation of an Interprofessional Training Program to Improve Cancer Drug Therapy Safety. JCO Oncol Pract. 2021;17(10):e1551-e1558.

We would like to thank all the oncology practice site nurses and specialty pharmacists for their collaboration and ongoing success of this program.