

Canadian national healthcare provider perceptions of discharging patients directly home from the intensive care unit



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INTRODUCTION

- Intensive care unit (ICU) survivors are increasingly being directly discharged home (DDH) from the ICU
- Approximately 14-23% of ICU survivors are DDH annually in Alberta and Ontario
- ICU survivors and their families (>70%) felt very comfortable with DDH
- Healthcare provider perceptions on DDH relatively unknown

OBJECTIVE

- To evaluate Canadian healthcare provider (HCP) perceptions on DDH from the ICU

METHODS

- Open web-based anonymous survey administered to Canadian HCPs between July 23, 2020 to December 31, 2020 in English and French, including ICU and non-ICU providers (SHA-REB-20-25)
- Distribution by 22 local, provincial, and national organizations
- Analyses in SPSS Statistics version 22
- Chi-square and Kruskal-Wallis test as appropriate
- A two-sided p-value <0.05 considered statistically significant for all analyses

RESULTS

- 360/367 (98%) completed surveys, with 234 (65%) ICU & 126 (35%) non-ICU HCPs
- Many HCPs (28%) had >20 years of experience, many (42%) worked in Ontario, most (78%) worked in large urban centres, and most (59%) worked at teaching hospitals
- Most HCPs (58%) aware of the increasing trend of DDH
- HCPs felt similar levels of comfort with DDH (Table 1).
- Handover after DDH was uncommon with it only provided sometimes (29%), rarely (27%), or never (17%).
- HCPs rated quality of handover as either good (31%), fair (35%), or poor (14%).
- Non-ICU HCPs felt that it was moderately important (25%) or very important (27%) to include them in the DDH decision-making process, but only 60% of ICU HCPs always included them.
- Lack of home supports – Most common problem encountered following DDH (Figure 1).

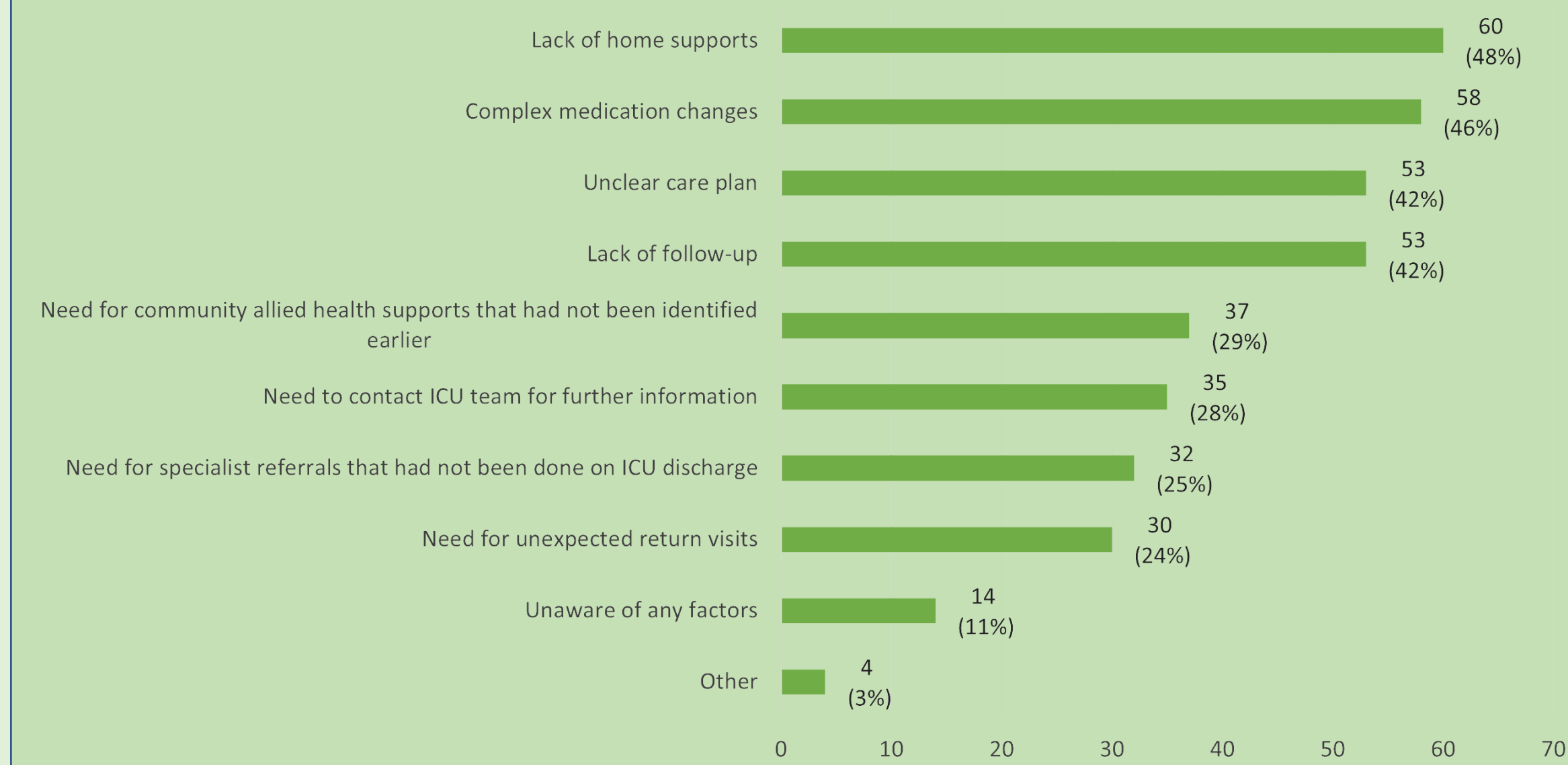
Table 1. Comfort of HCPs with direct discharge home

	ICU-providers	Non-ICU providers	P-value
How comfortable do you feel with DDH from the ICU?	n=231	n=109	0.27
Very comfortable	42 (18)	15 (14)	
Comfortable	82 (36)	39 (36)	
Neutral	61 (26)	29 (27)	
Uncomfortable	39 (17)	20 (18)	
Very uncomfortable	7 (3)	6 (6)	

RESULTS

Figure 1.

What are some elements, factors, or problems that you have encountered that have impacted your patients that have been DDH from the ICU?



DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- Many HCPs were aware of the increasing trend of DDH and felt comfortable with DDH.
- Non-ICU providers had concerns regarding its safety.
- Potential to improve communication and discharge documentation, involve community HCPs in the decision-making process, and ensure follow-up

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