



# AAPM Task Group 262

## - IT considerations in the electronic chart -

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MAYO CLINIC  
Radiation Oncology

# IT Infrastructure for Radiation Oncology



What is **IT**?

and

Why is **IT** so important?

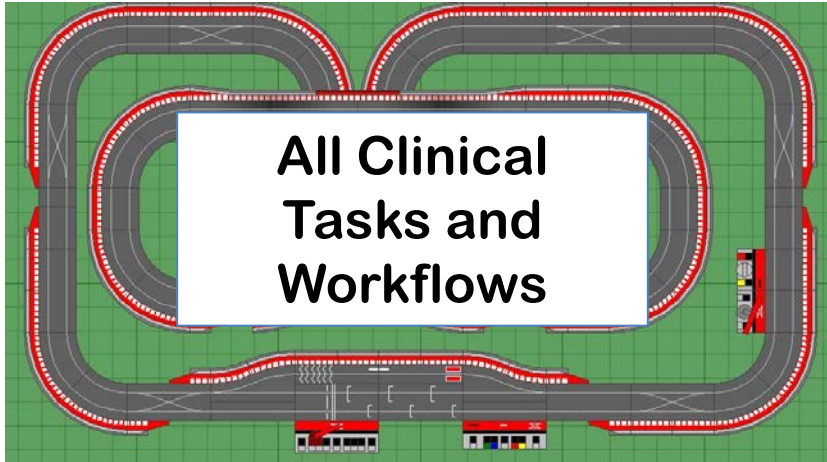
## E-Chart System/Environment



## IT Infrastructure



All Clinical  
Tasks and  
Workflows



# The 4 Main Pillars of IT infrastructure

## ***Hardware Infrastructure Type and Design***

- Physical and/or Virtual servers,
- Server network enablement,
- Internet connectivity,
- Firewall and security,
- Cloud-based deployment,
- High availability and redundancy systems,
- Networking,
- Data backups systems and processes,
- Performance,
- Information security,
- Test environments,
- Mobile Device Connectivity

## ***Software supporting IT infrastructure***

- Enterprise resource planning (ERP),
- Productivity applications,
- Operating system,
- Database management system (DBMS),
- Communications protocols,
- Anti-virus software,
- Compilers and
- Other development tools

## ***Application Services***

- Reporting,
- Mining and data analytics,
- Data and information exchange with other hospital-based systems and devices

## ***Peopleware & Management Strategies***

- Network, dbase and system administrators,
- Developers,
- Designers, and
- Generic end users with access to any IT appliance or service for maintenance and support

# Mapping of Current IT infrastructure supporting the RadOnc e-chart environments

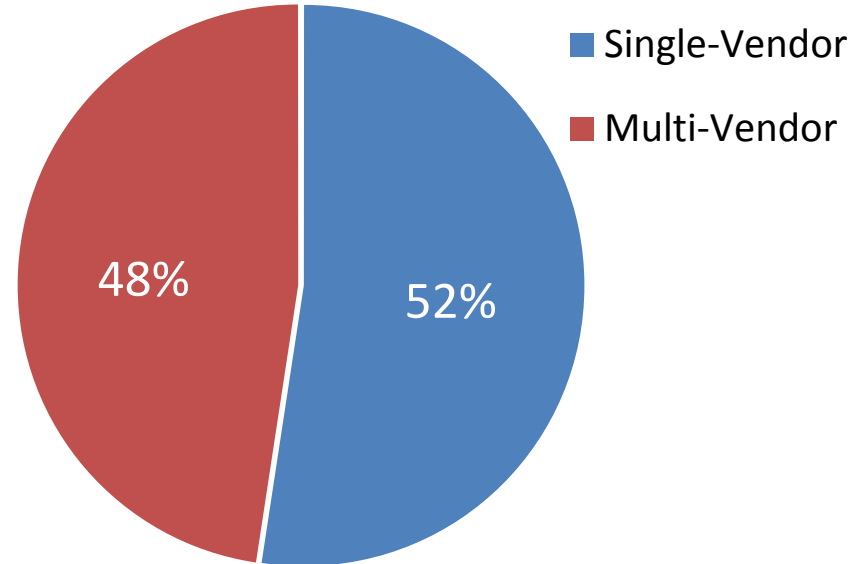
- 13 question exploring the IT infrastructure landscape across AAPM members
- ~ 415 participants



# Type of Environment

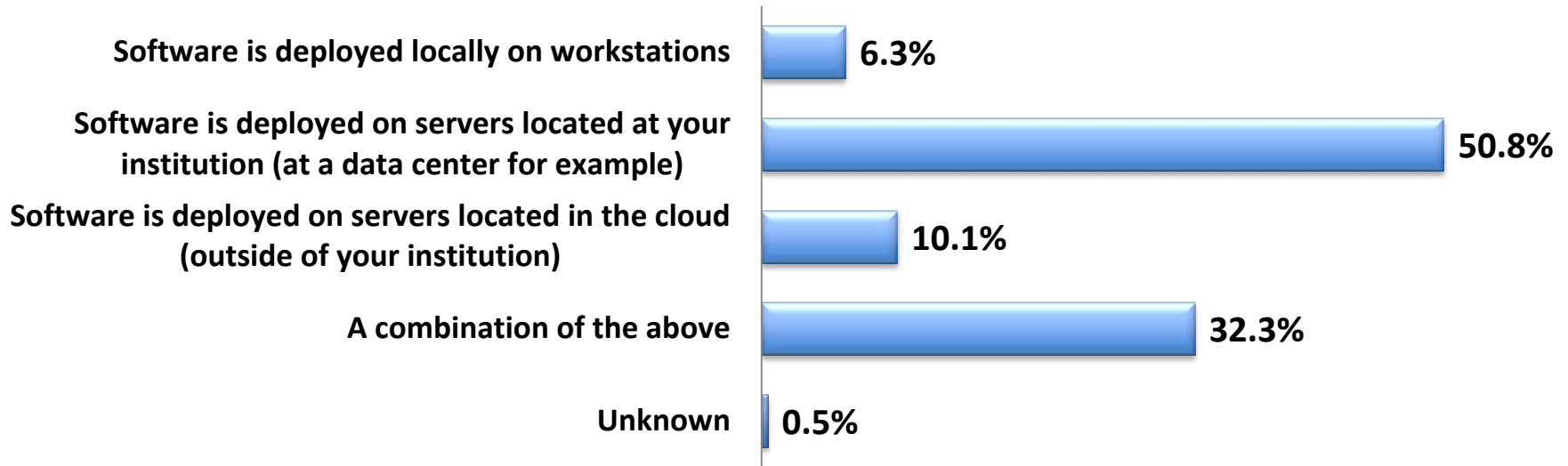
## Single- vs. Multi-Vendor Environment

Delivery, Planning and E-chart environment are from the **same** or **different** vendors

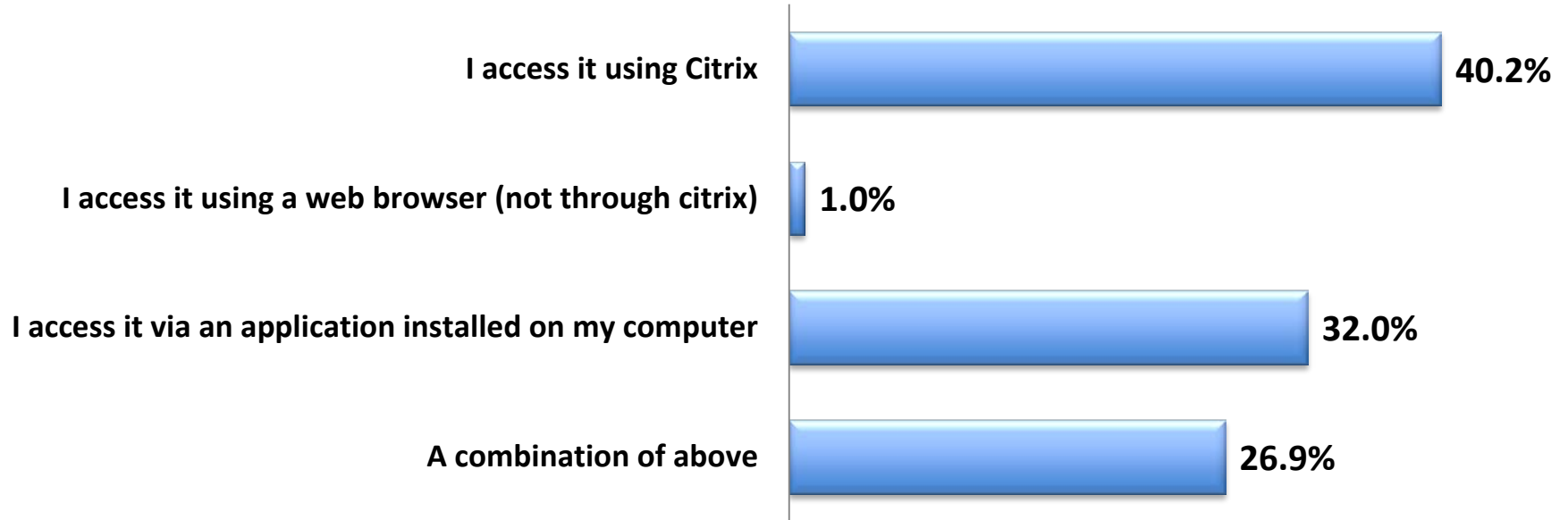


# Deployment Strategy

Where is the e-chart environment installed?



# Accessing the e-chart system





# Utilization of test environments to validate upgrades



# Database Backups



Automated



87.7%

Manually

3.6%

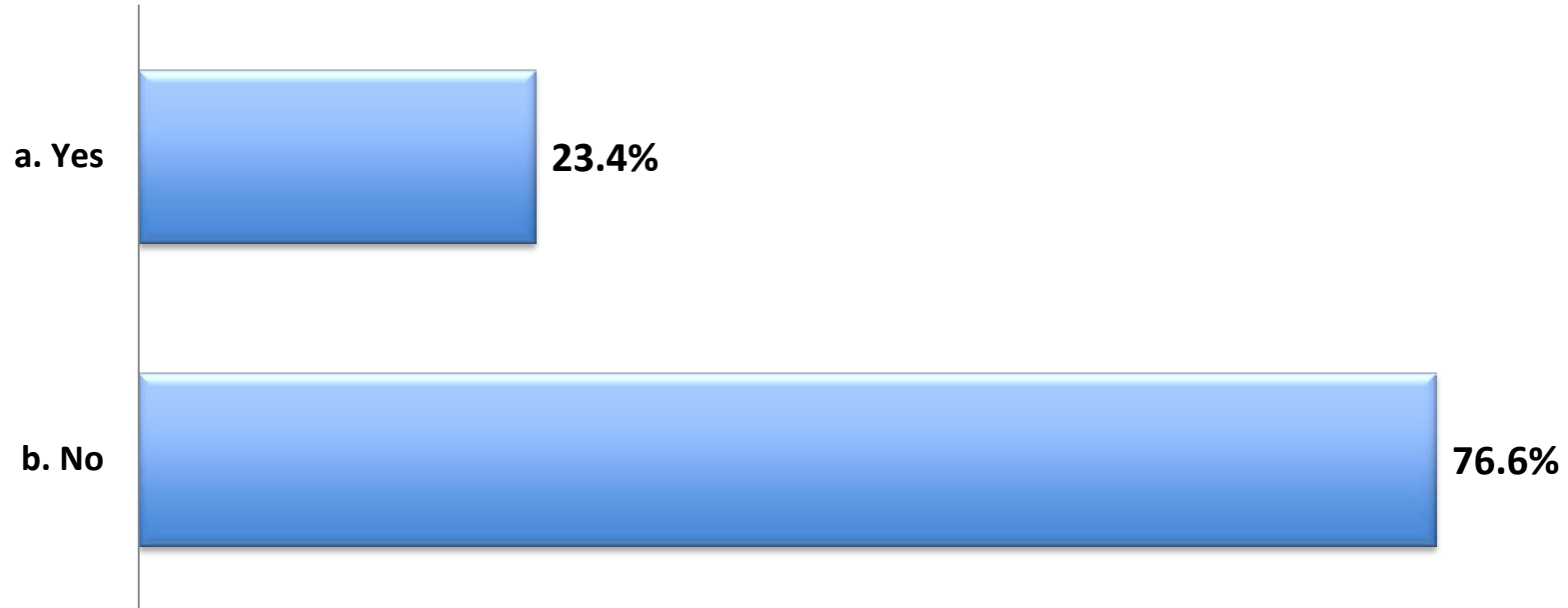
No backups are performed

0.0%

Unknown

8.7%

# Smart Devices Access and Mobile Application



# Information Security



## Economical Motivation:

- Selling information:
  - Single Health Record: \$1000 vs. Credit Card: \$ 0.50
  - More than 113 million personal health records were compromised in 2015
- Ransomware: Threatens to publish the victim's data or perpetually block access to it unless a ransom is paid.

## Motivation to Cause Harm:

- Hacking medical devices to cause harm.

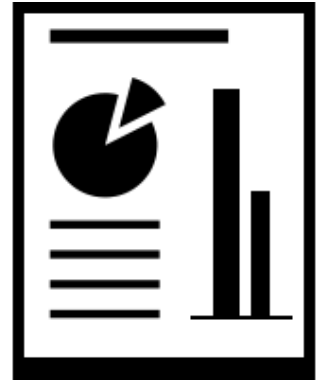
### Role of Clinical Team and Medical Physicists



# Data Mining



# Custom Reports



a. Yes



73.5%

b. No

26.5%

# What's the role of Medical Physicists in IT?

- WGIT - *“The creation of a robust IT infrastructure requires **input from the medical physicists**, since they have the best understanding of the nature of the data and its flow through clinical processes”*
- *“...planning requires **collaboration** among the medical physicists, equipment service engineers, RO IT staff, and hospital or clinic IT staff”*

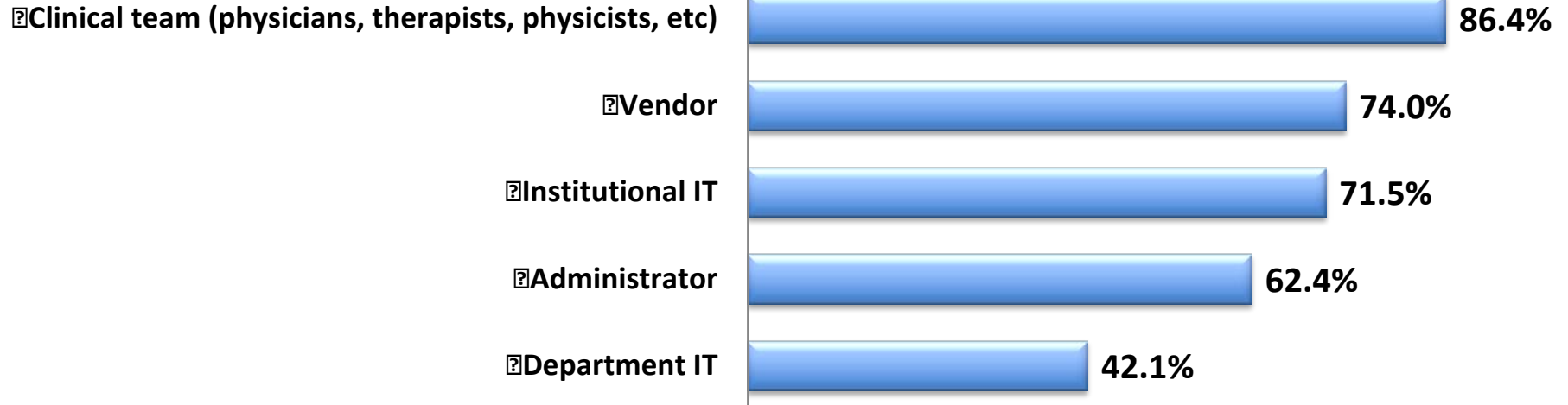
Balance between Clinical Practice needs  
and IT Infrastructure needs.



Siochi, R.A., et al., *Information technology resource management in radiation oncology*. Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics, 2009. 10(4): p. 16-35.

Siochi, R.A.C., C.D. Brack, and C.G. Orton, *The Chief Information Technology Officer in a Radiation Oncology department should be a medical physicist*. Medical Physics, 2009. 36(9): p. 3863-3865.

# Discussion about the design of RO-EMR environment IT infrastructure (i.e. server configuration)



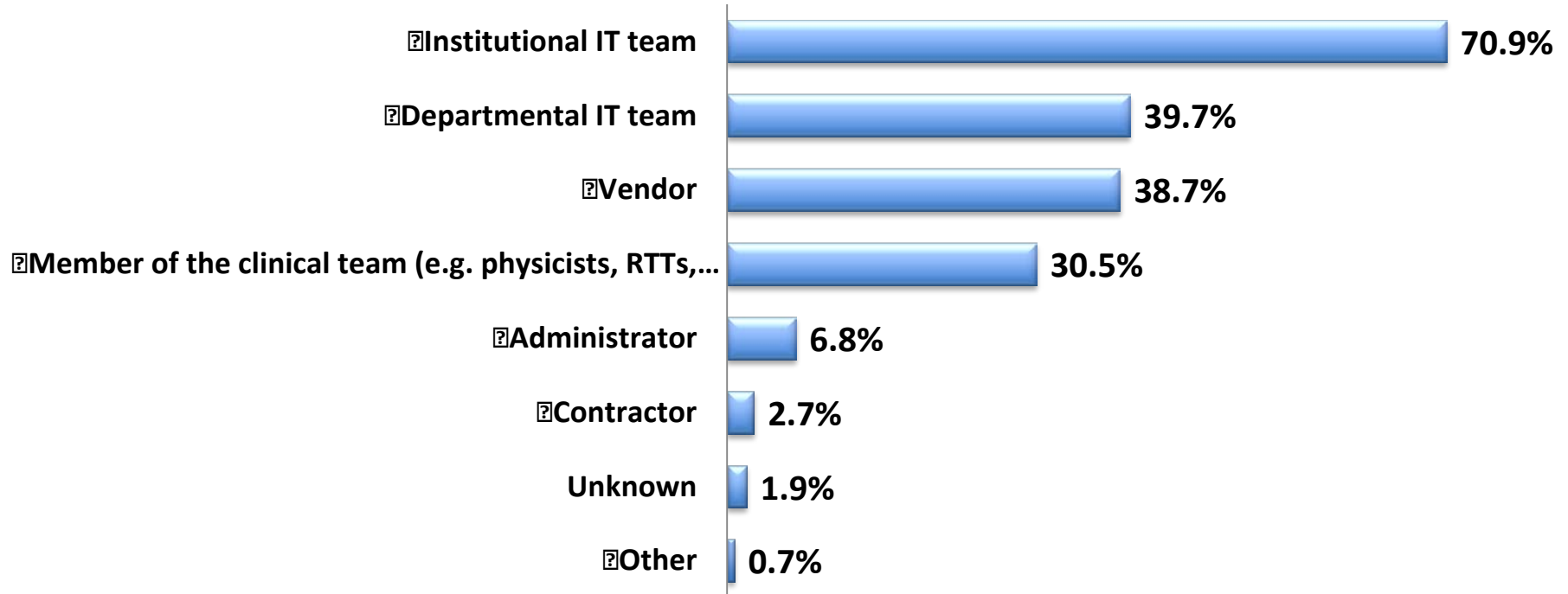
Clinical Team + IT Team + Vendor 61.6%

IT Team + Vendor 7.4%

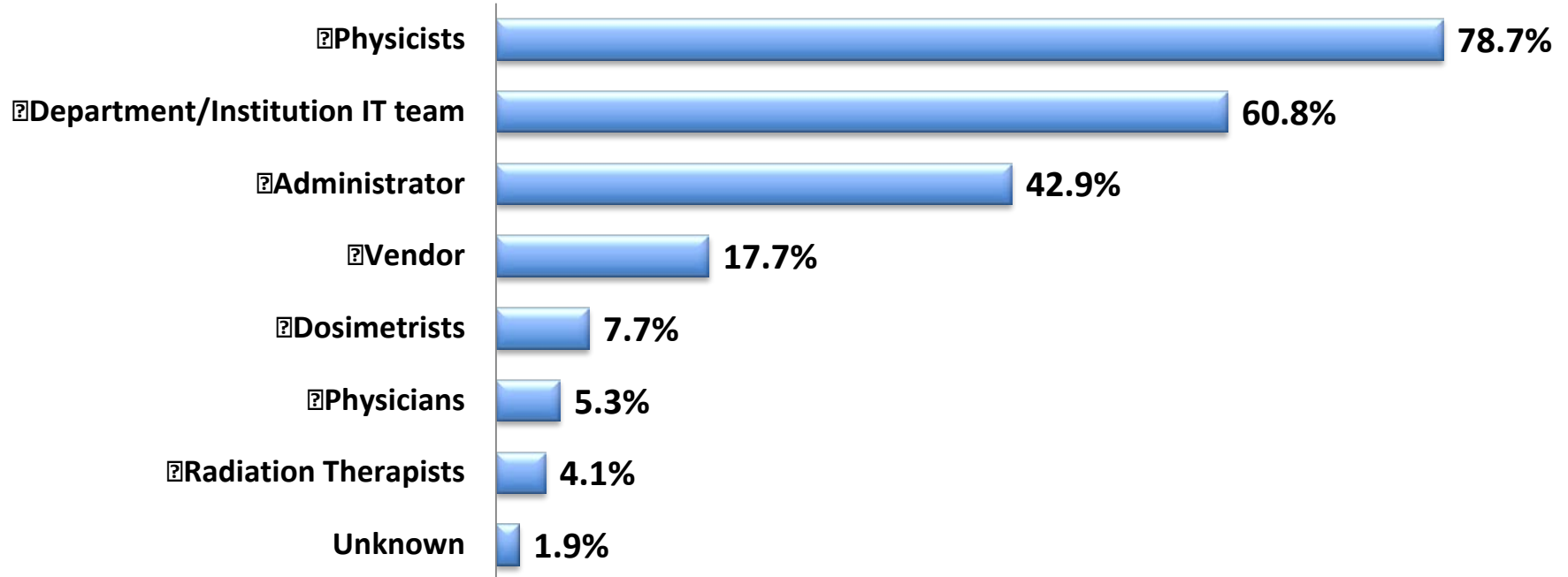




Supports the RO-EMR IT infrastructure (i.e. servers, database backups, database performance checks, etc.)



# Administrator Level Rights for e-chart Systems



# Recommendations



- Guidelines on the process of developing an IT infrastructure;
- Provide a basic knowledge to be able to ask the right questions and actively participate on the discussion

# Acknowledgements

- Mark Parry
- TG 262 Members

**AAPM Community**



**Thank you!!**