

Ethics in Medical Physics: the IAEA Perspective

AAPM/IAEA Joint Symposium 2021: Ethics in Practice

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Introduction

Existing IAEA reference to ethics for CQMPs



Lack of awareness on professional ethics and relevant E&T (professional symposia, TC projects, establishment of E&T programmes)

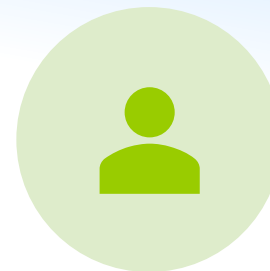
Instruments and Methods



SURVEY DISTRIBUTED
MARCH – MID-APRIL



20 QUESTIONS



DISTRIBUTED TO A
TARGETED 103
PARTICIPANTS



RANGE OF YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE



ALL AREAS OF MP
SPECIALIZATION

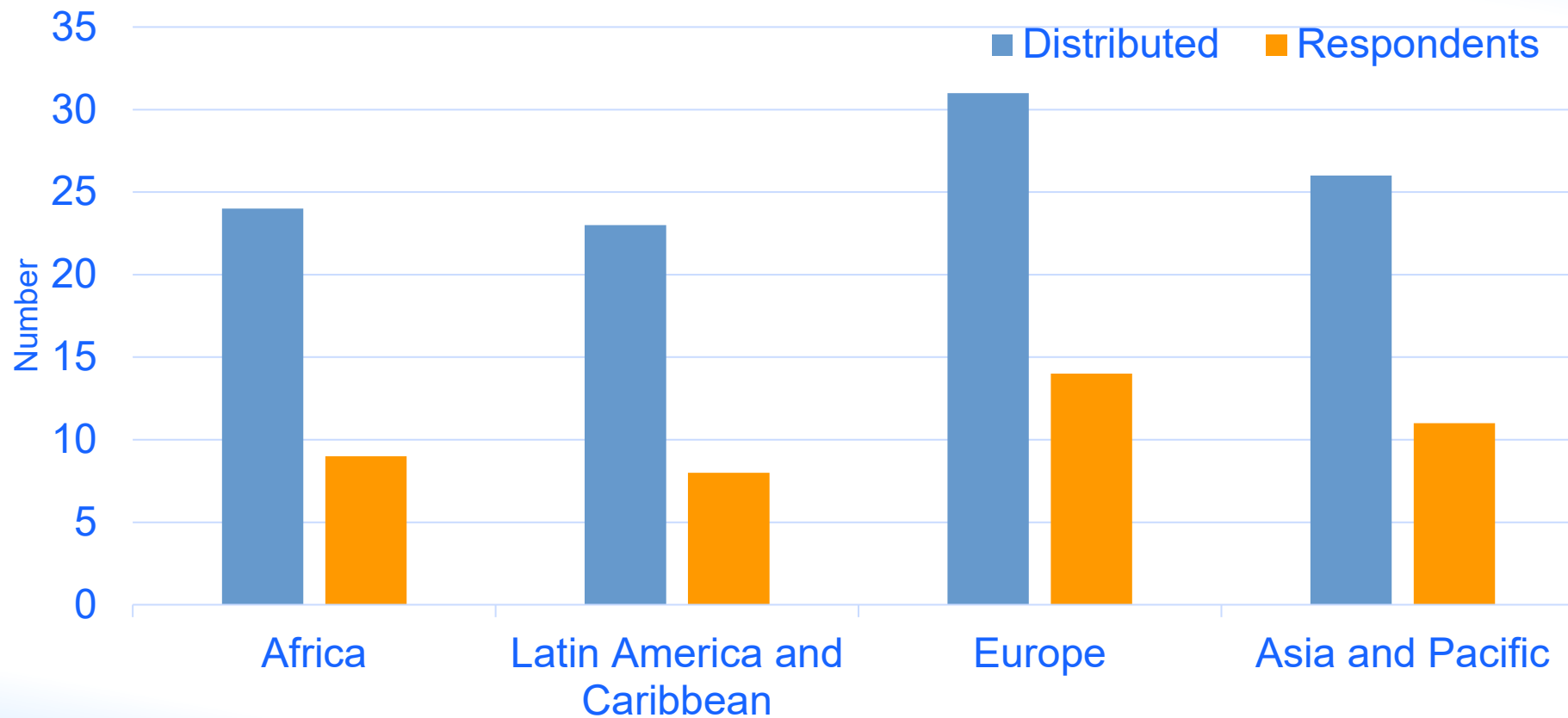


ALL REGIONS BUT NOT
NORTH AMERICA

Regions



Response Rate per Region

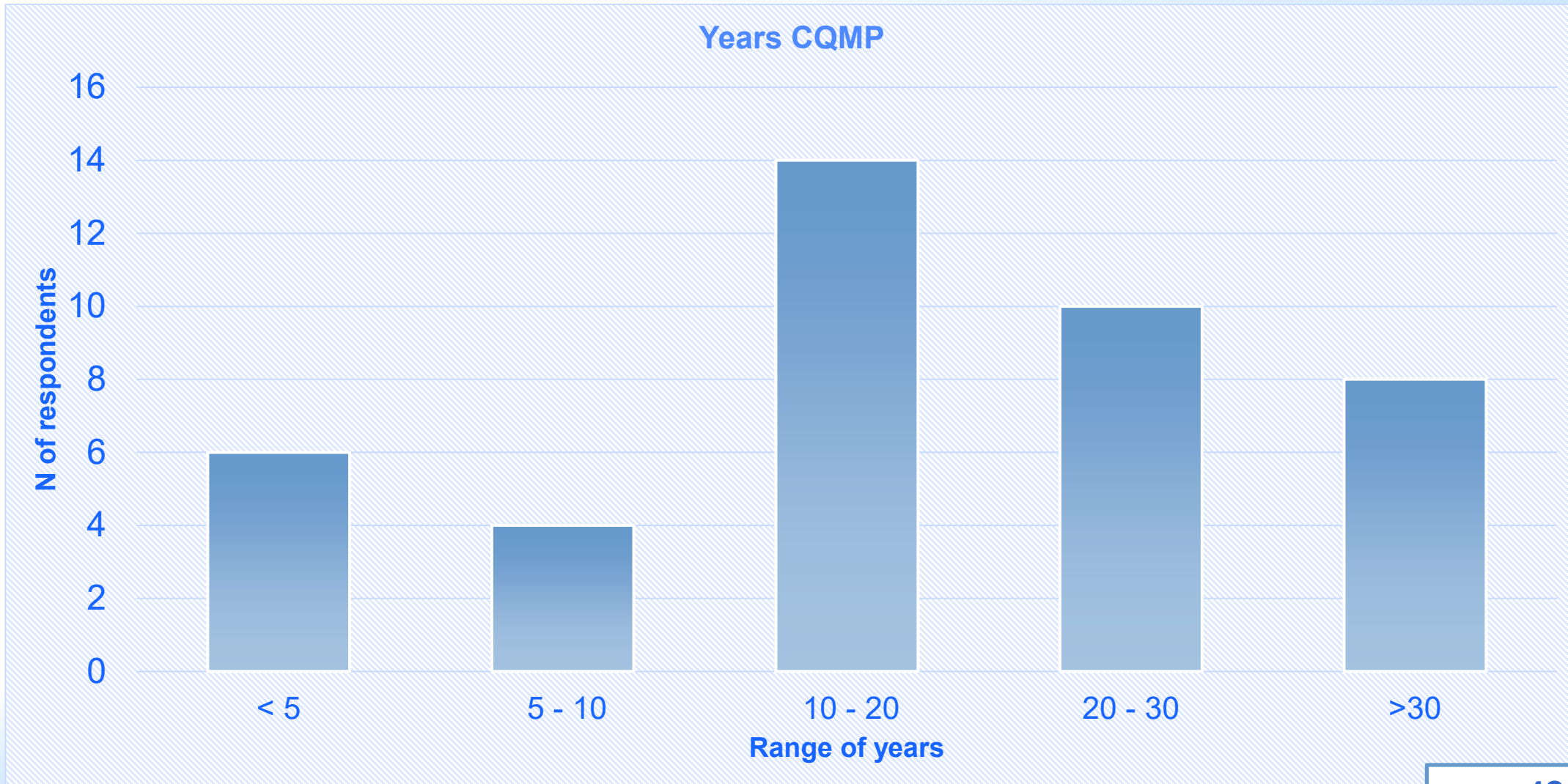


103 disseminated

42 respondents

42% response rate

Range of Years of Experience



42 answers

42% response rate

Specialty and Certification

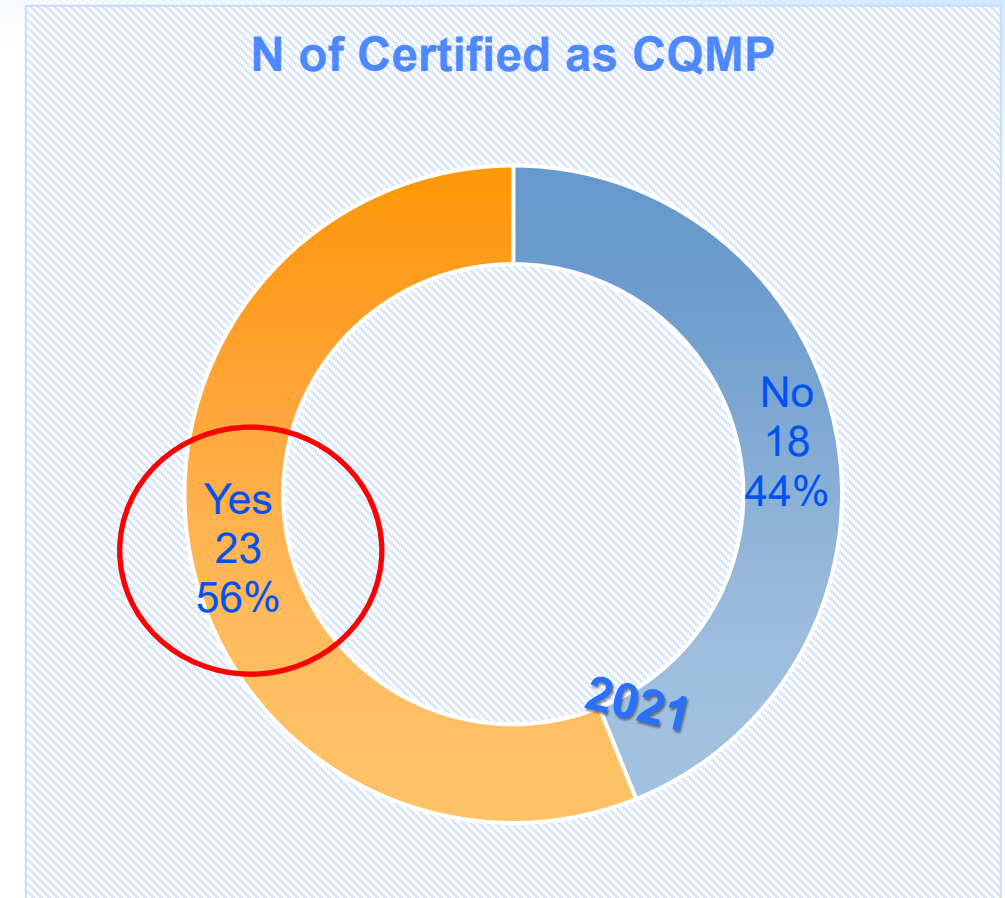
81% CQMP in RT, 24% in NM, 31% DR

CQMP 3 specialties	CQMP 2 specialties	CQMP 1 specialty
10%	17%	74%
4	7	31

87% of certified work in MP specialty they are certified in

39% of certified consider that with their certification they will

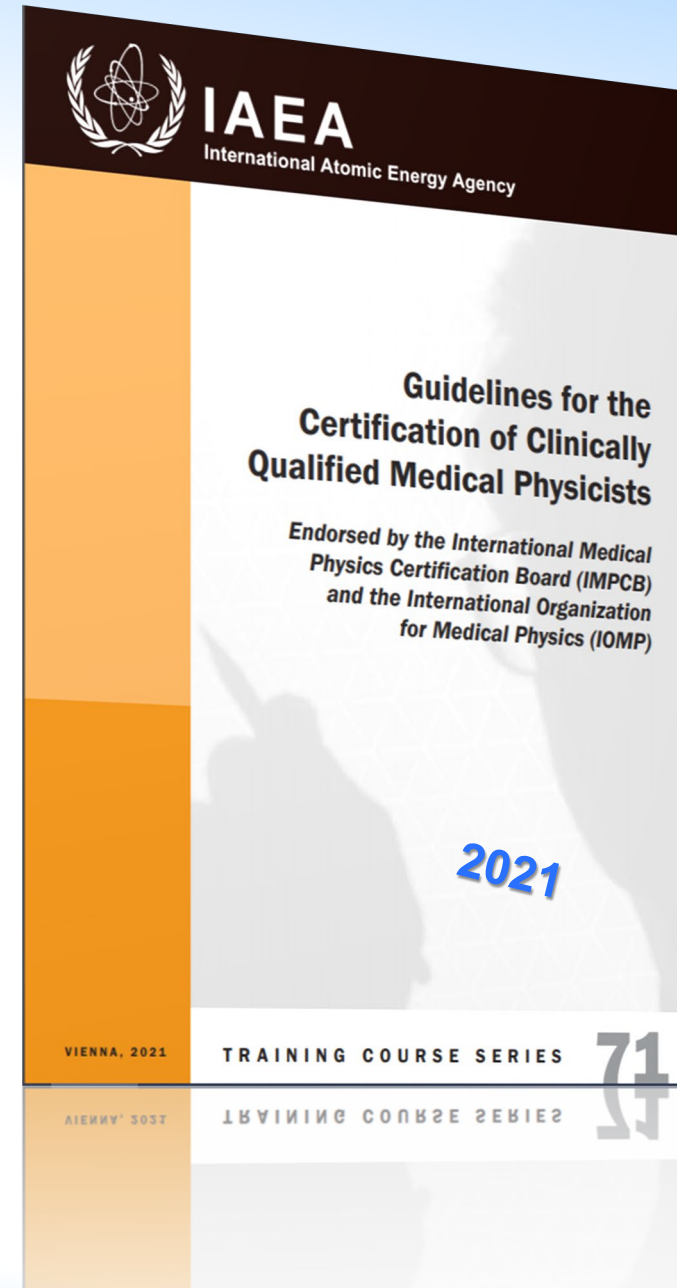
be able to work in any other country/region



42 survey respondents

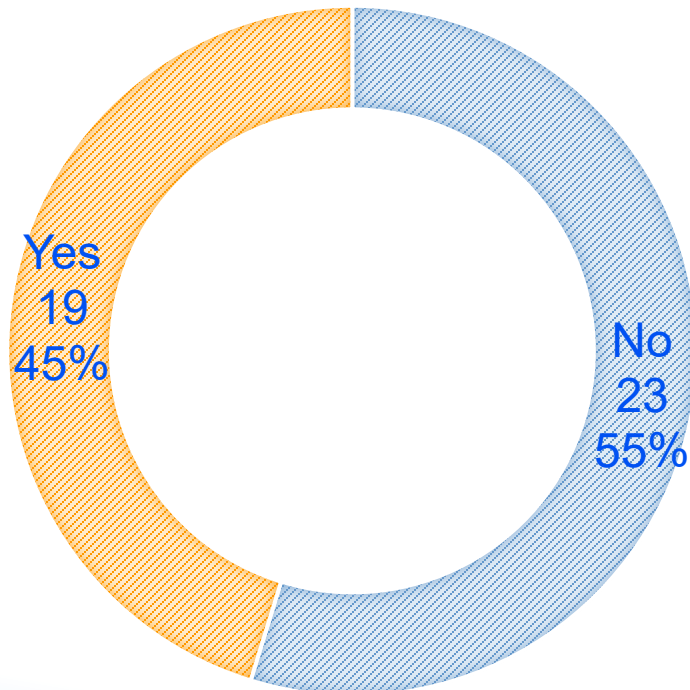
Certification

Certification is typically national, or defined mechanisms are needed to allow validation of certification



Need for E&T in Ethics

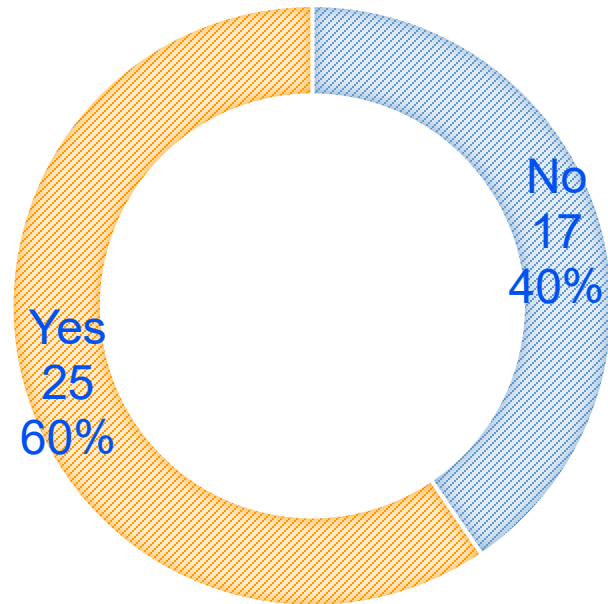
5. DID YOU RECEIVE ACADEMIC COURSES OR TRAINING ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS?



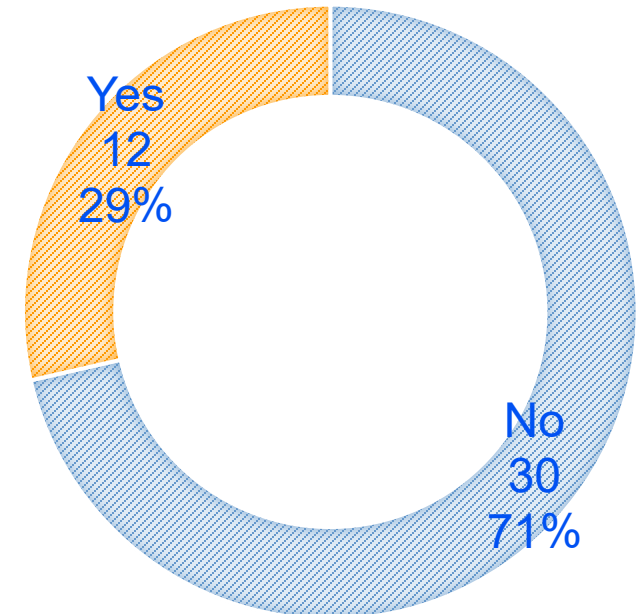
- Academic education: should include professional and research ethics (90% Y)
- Clinical training: should include professional ethics (98% Y)

CPD in Ethics

6. IS THERE A REQUIREMENT FOR YOU TO UNDERGO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) ACTIVITIES?



7. DID YOU UNDERGO ANY CPD ACTIVITIES IN PROFESSIONAL ETHICS?

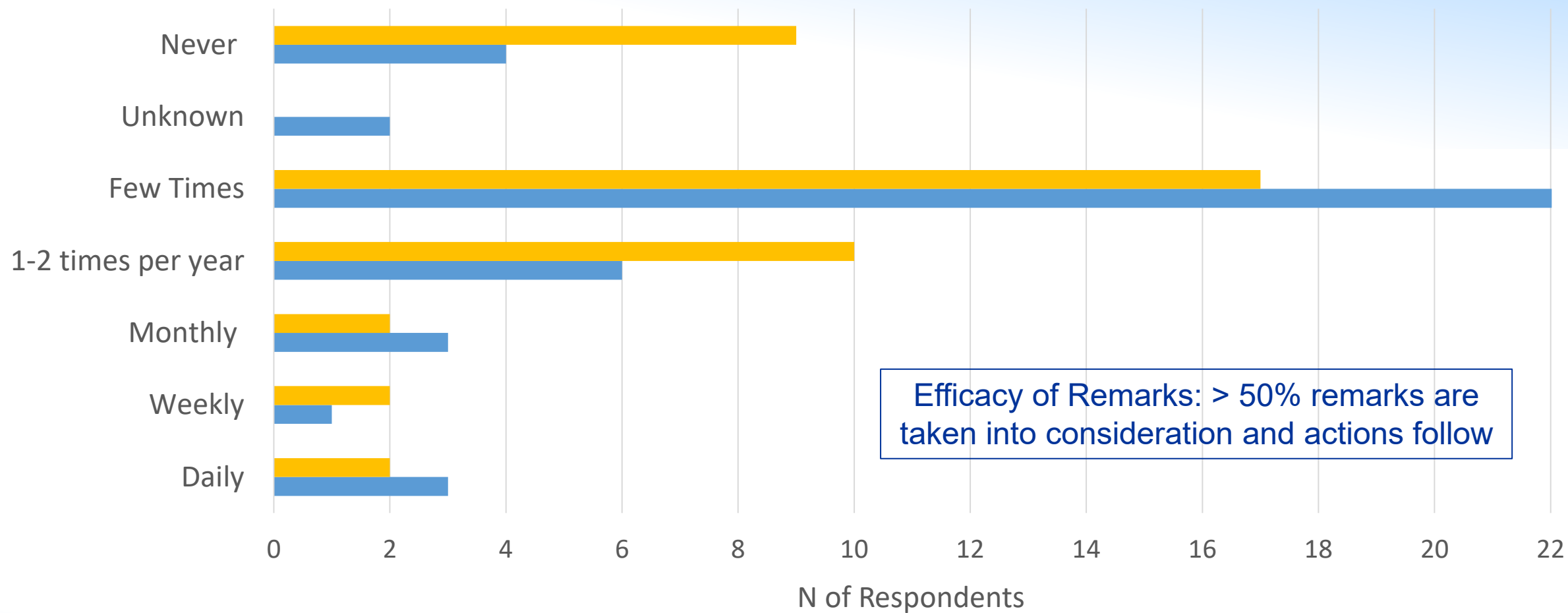


Acquisition of competencies in professional ethics:

academic education, residency, CPD and professional experience

42 respondents

Awareness of Ethical Dilemmas



Efficacy of Remarks: > 50% remarks are taken into consideration and actions follow

■ 13. In your practice of CQMP, do you raise professional ethics issues?

■ 12. In your practice of CQMP, are you confronted with dilemmas that pertain to professional ethics?

42 overall respondents

Experience and Awareness

	Avg Years of Experience	N Respondents	Max Years of Experience	Min Years of Experience
Never	20	4	37	8
I don't know	12	2	13	11
Few times	16	23	32	0
1 -2 times per year	17	6	31	2
Monthly	15	3	32	2
Weekly	20	1	20	20
Daily	16	3	23	8

Decision Making Process

14. WHO HELPS YOU MAKE DECISIONS PERTAINING TO PROFESSIONAL ETHICAL ISSUES THAT YOU ENCOUNTER IN CLINICAL PRACTICE? (ALL THAT APPLY)

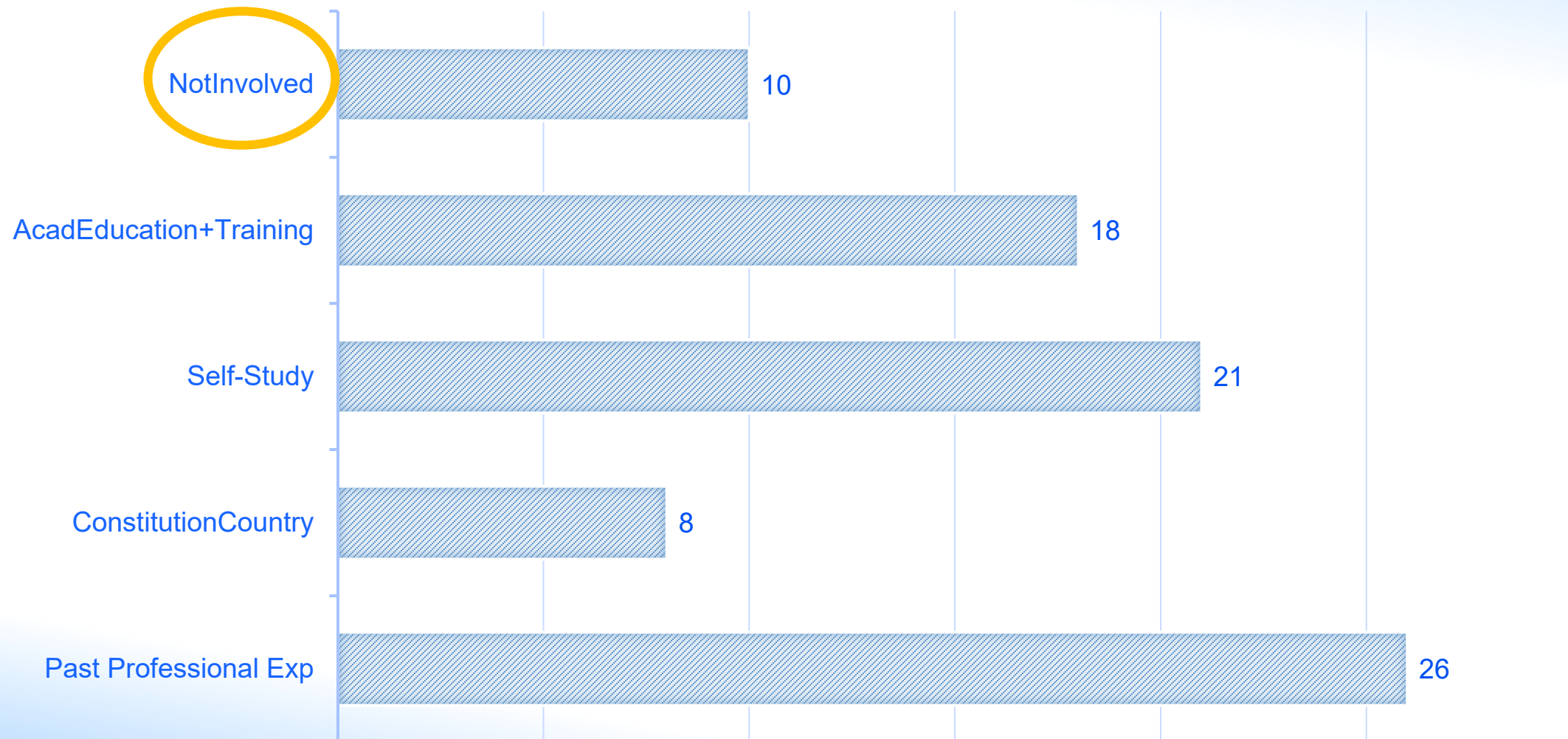
Advice from Clinicians



42 overall respondents

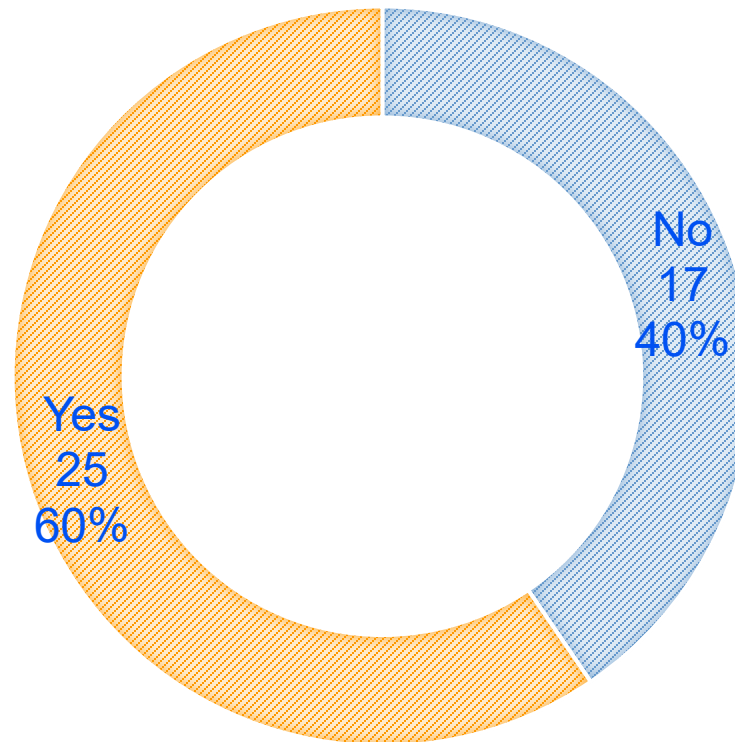
Decision Making Process

16. WHAT INFORMS THE DECISIONS PERTAINING TO PROFESSIONAL ETHICAL ISSUES THAT YOU ENCOUNTER IN CLINICAL PRACTICE? (ALL THAT APPLY)



Need for E&T in Ethics

11. DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IF NEEDED?

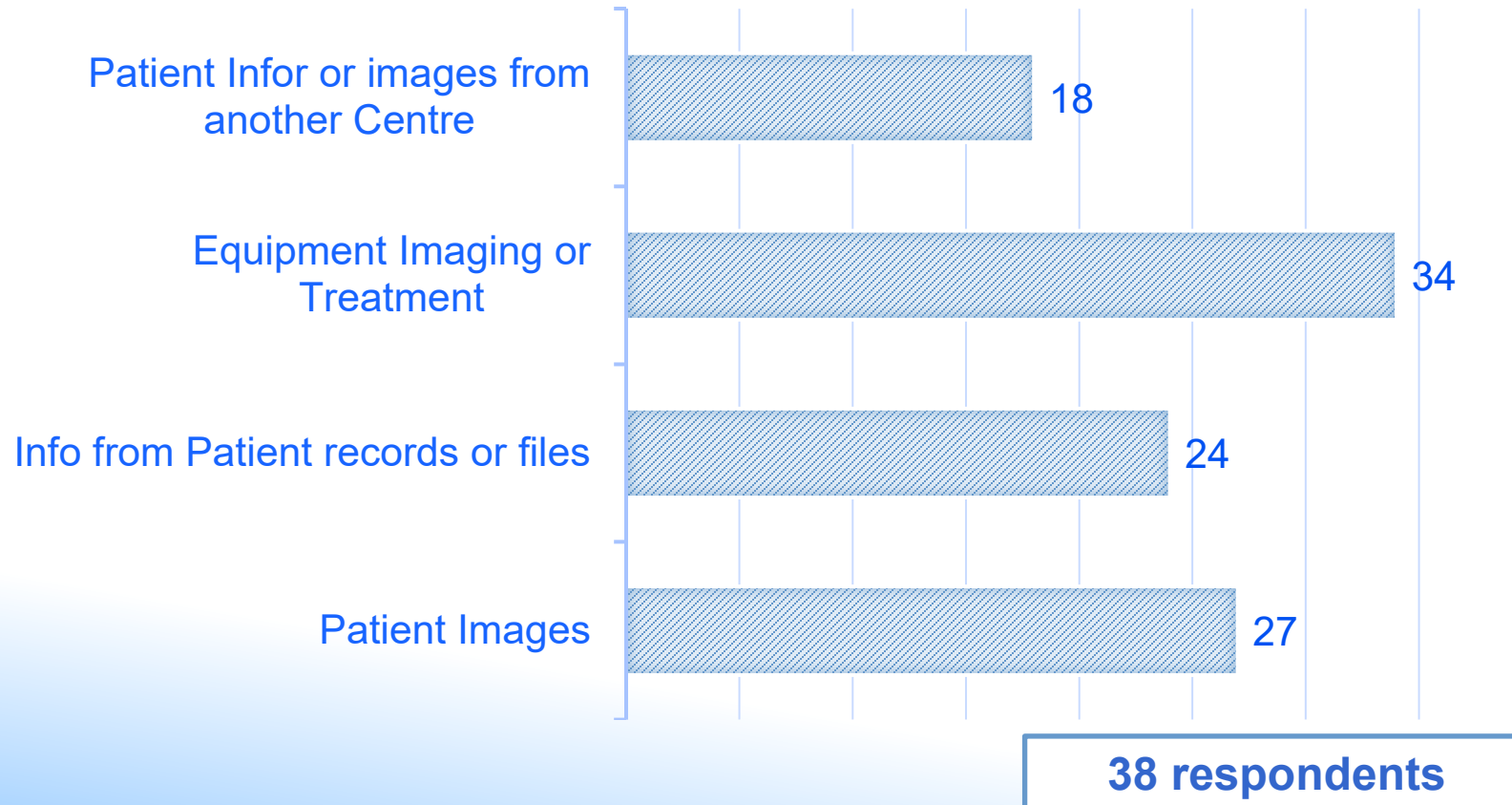


42 answers

Ethics in Practice

~40% has stored or transmitted patient information through online services

18. HAVE YOU EVER PERFORMED RESEARCH INVOLVING: (ALL THAT APPLY)



~50% doesn't consider ethical clearance or waiver necessary

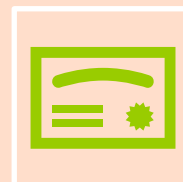
Conclusions



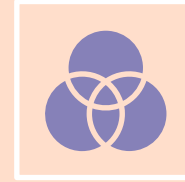
ANSWERS MAX N FROM
EUROPE



RANGE OF YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE AND ALL MP
SPECIALTIES



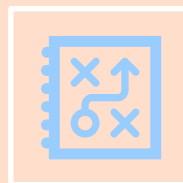
LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF
CERTIFICATION



DISCONNECT BETWEEN
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND
PRACTICE



ADVICE FROM CLINICIANS AND
HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS



ETHICAL CLEARANCE
PROCESSES NOT WIDESPREAD



LACK OF SPECIFIC EDUCATION
(ALL LEVELS) IN
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Thank you !

More information and material available on
<https://www.iaea.org/>
<https://humanhealth.iaea.org>