



Acute diabetes dietitians in Ireland: advancing dietetic practice in technology in Type 1 diabetes care



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Background

Advances in diabetes technology, and HSE digital health initiatives, have increased demand for upskilled multidisciplinary teams (MDT) to include technology as part of standard care in Type 1 diabetes. Clinical guidelines and competency frameworks recommend that Registered Dietitians (RDs) knowledge and skills are a pivotal part of supporting people with diabetes in effective technology use to improve outcomes and service delivery ^{1,2}. Here we describe current practice in relation to technology in Type 1 diabetes care among acute RDs in diabetes care in Ireland.

Methodology

The Dietetic Lead with the Diabetes National Clinical Programme undertook a survey of the Acute Diabetes Dietitians mailing list (n38) exploring knowledge, skills, training, technology in care pathways, and experiences of the Managed Medicine Programme (MMP) preferred glucose sensor ordering process.

Data were gathered and analysed using Smart Survey and Microsoft Excel with a response rate of 74% (n28).

Results

Knowledge, skills and training

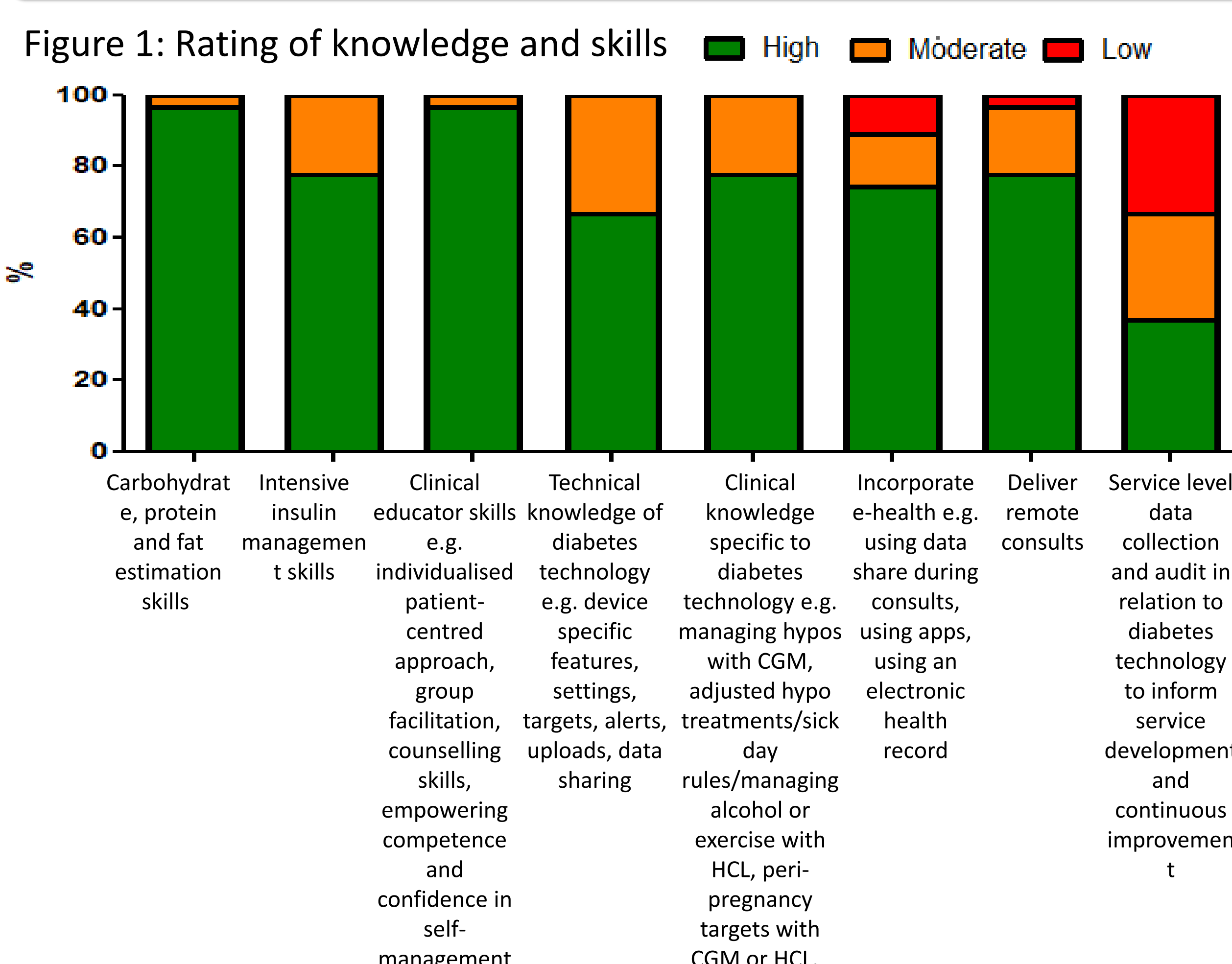
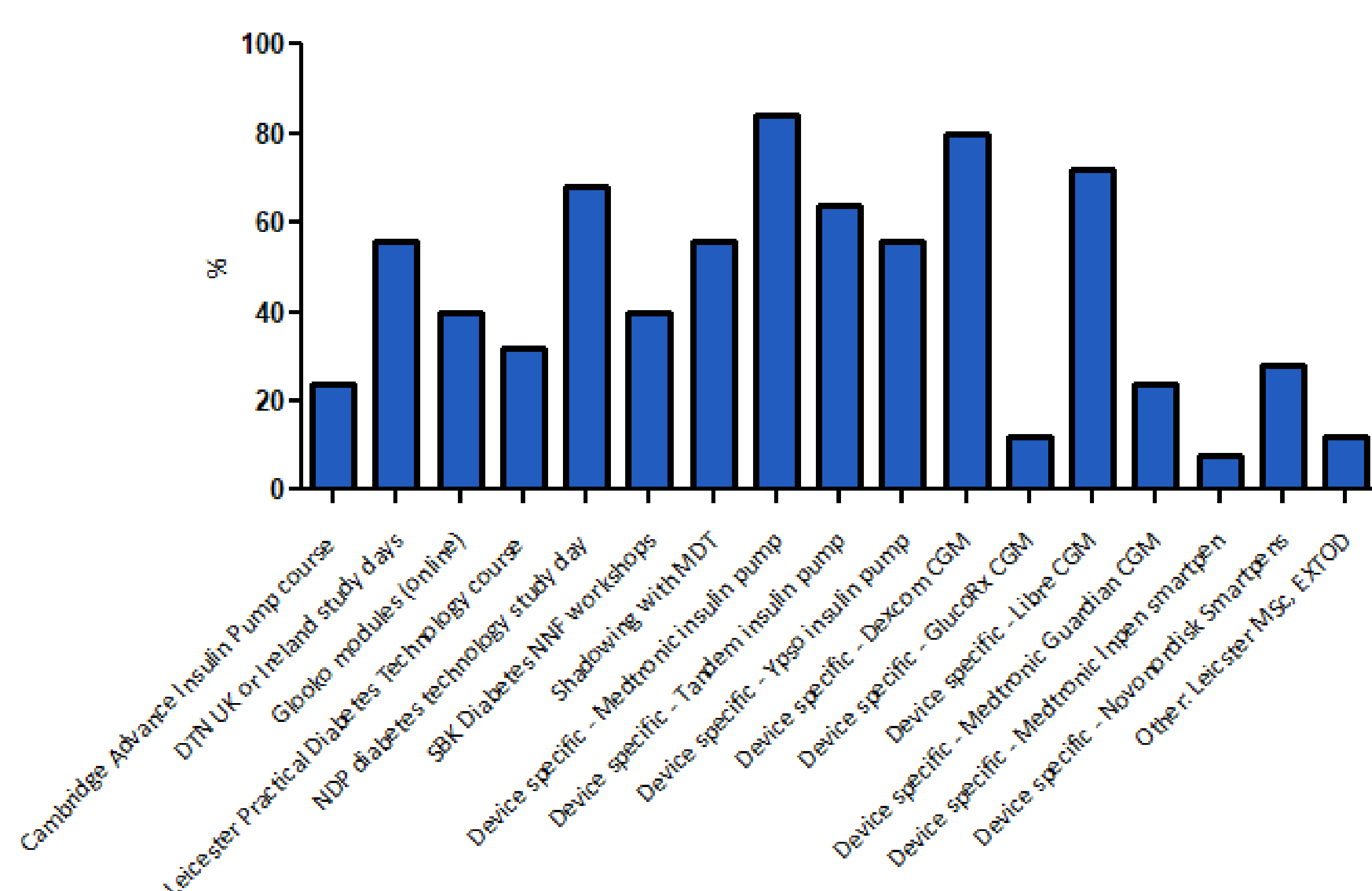


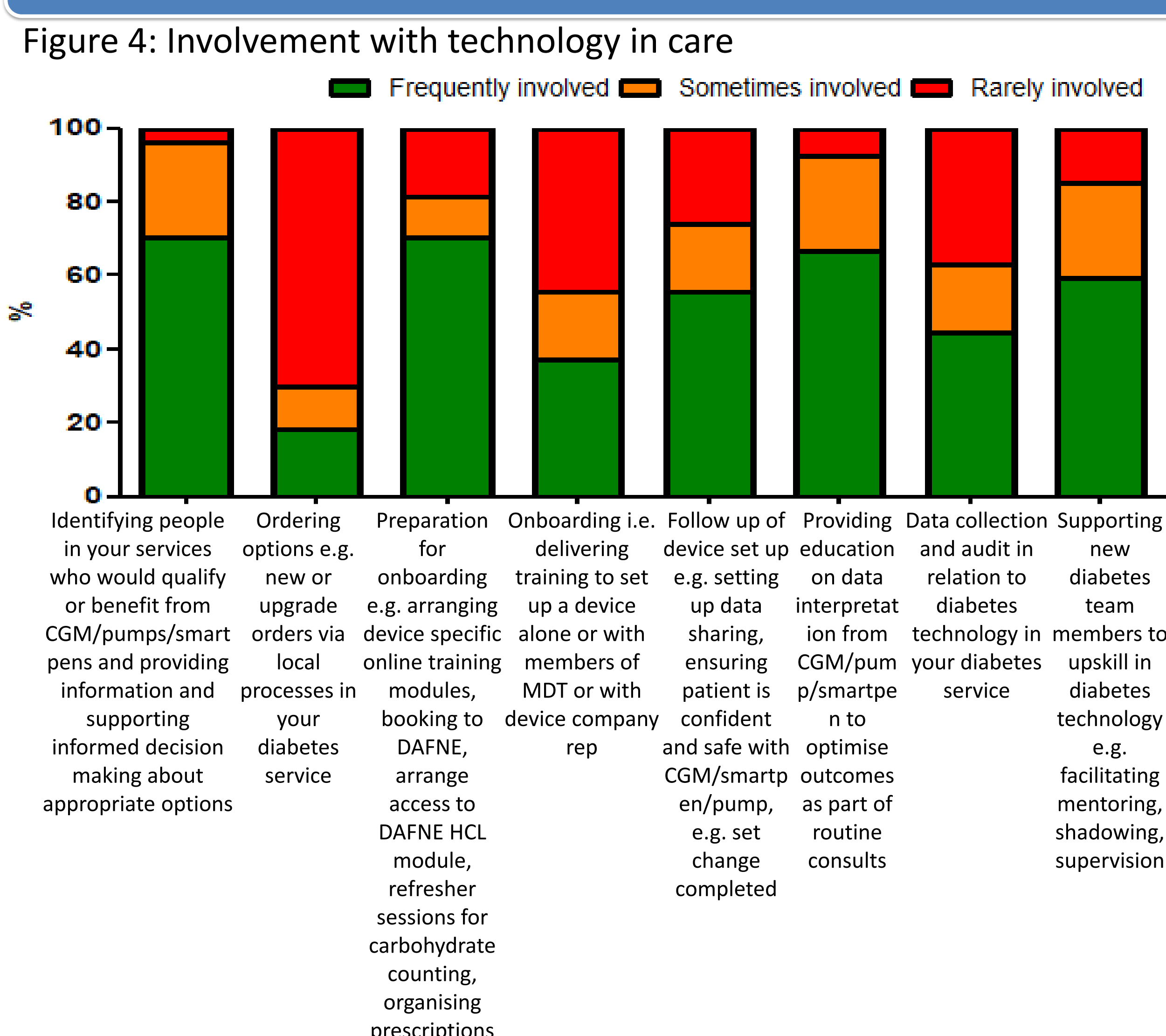
Figure 2: Unique knowledge and skills that complement MDT



Figure 3: Diabetes technology training

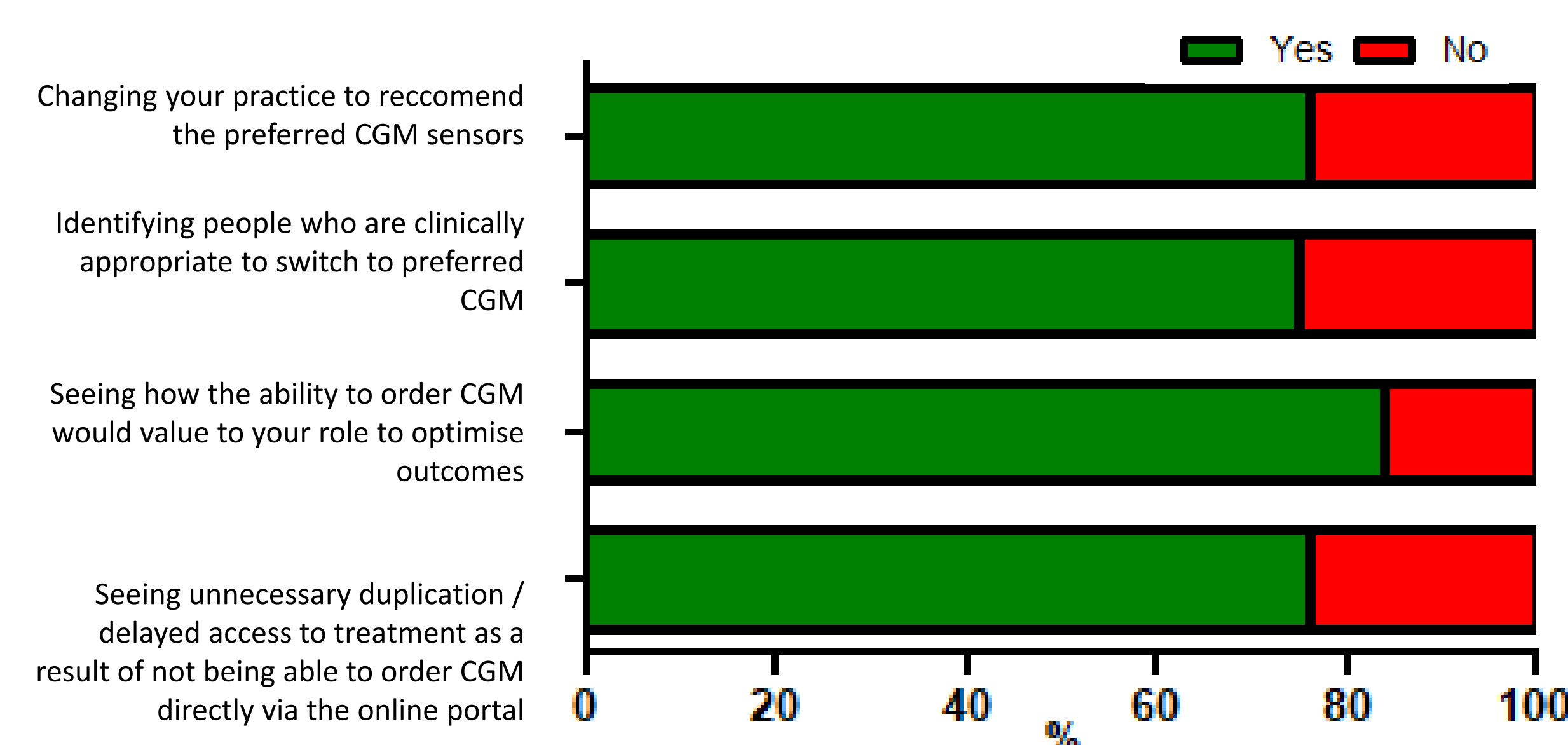


Roles of RDs and technology in care pathways



Experiences of the MMP pathway

Figure 5: In the last 6 months do you have experience of the following:



Discussion and conclusions

RDs working in acute diabetes care in Ireland are advancing and evolving their practice to use their knowledge, skills and training in diabetes technology as part of medical nutrition therapy in Type 1 diabetes care delivery. RDs role in optimising cost-effective device use, would be enhanced by equality of ordering access, in line with their acute multidisciplinary team colleagues

References: ¹ British Dietetic Association Diabetes Specialist Group (2021) Dietetic Competency Framework for Dietitians Working in the Area of Diabetes; 2 Griffin TP, Gallen G, Hartnell S, et al. UK's Association of British Clinical Diabetologists Diabetes Technology Network (ABCD-DTN): Best practice guide for hybrid closed-loop therapy. *Diabet Med.* 2023; 40:e15078.