

Improving Inpatient Life Sustaining Treatment Documentation at the Orlando VA Healthcare System

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Problem Statement

-Early discussion of Goals of Care (GOC) with Life Sustaining Treatment (LST) note documentation will respect patient wishes and can decrease patient suffering, improve length of stay, and lower cost to the healthcare system. This was not happening routinely or consistently.

-AIM Statement: To improve LST documentation in high-risk patients admitted to the teaching service by 50% by 7/1/22



Defining High Risk

- Surprise Question

Will I be surprised if the patient dies within the next 1 year?

- Diagnostic Criteria

Cancer

ESRD/ESLD

>3 Hospital admissions in the past year

Severe CHF

Severe chronic lung disease

Stroke causing severely limited mobility

Severe Alzheimer's/Parkinson's

The Surprise Question as a Prognostic Tool Kate S. Jennings MD Sean Marks MD Hillary Lum MD. "The Surprise Question as a Prognostic Tool." *Palliative Care Network of Wisconsin*, 6 Mar. 2019, <https://www.mypcnw.org/fast-fact/the-surprise-question-as-a-prognostic-tool/>.

UpToDate, <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/hospice-philosophy-of-care-and-appropriate-utilization-in-the-united>.

You, John J, et al. "Just Ask: Discussing Goals of Care with Patients in Hospital with Serious Illness." *CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association Journal = Journal De L'Association Medicale Canadienne*, Canadian Medical Association, 1 Apr. 2014,

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pub/articles/PM/3971028/>.



Survey: LST Understanding 9/2021

~ 15% of the residents did not know what an LST note was

< 50% of residents felt “completely comfortable” writing an LST note

< 20% of residents felt they had “expertise” in writing LST notes

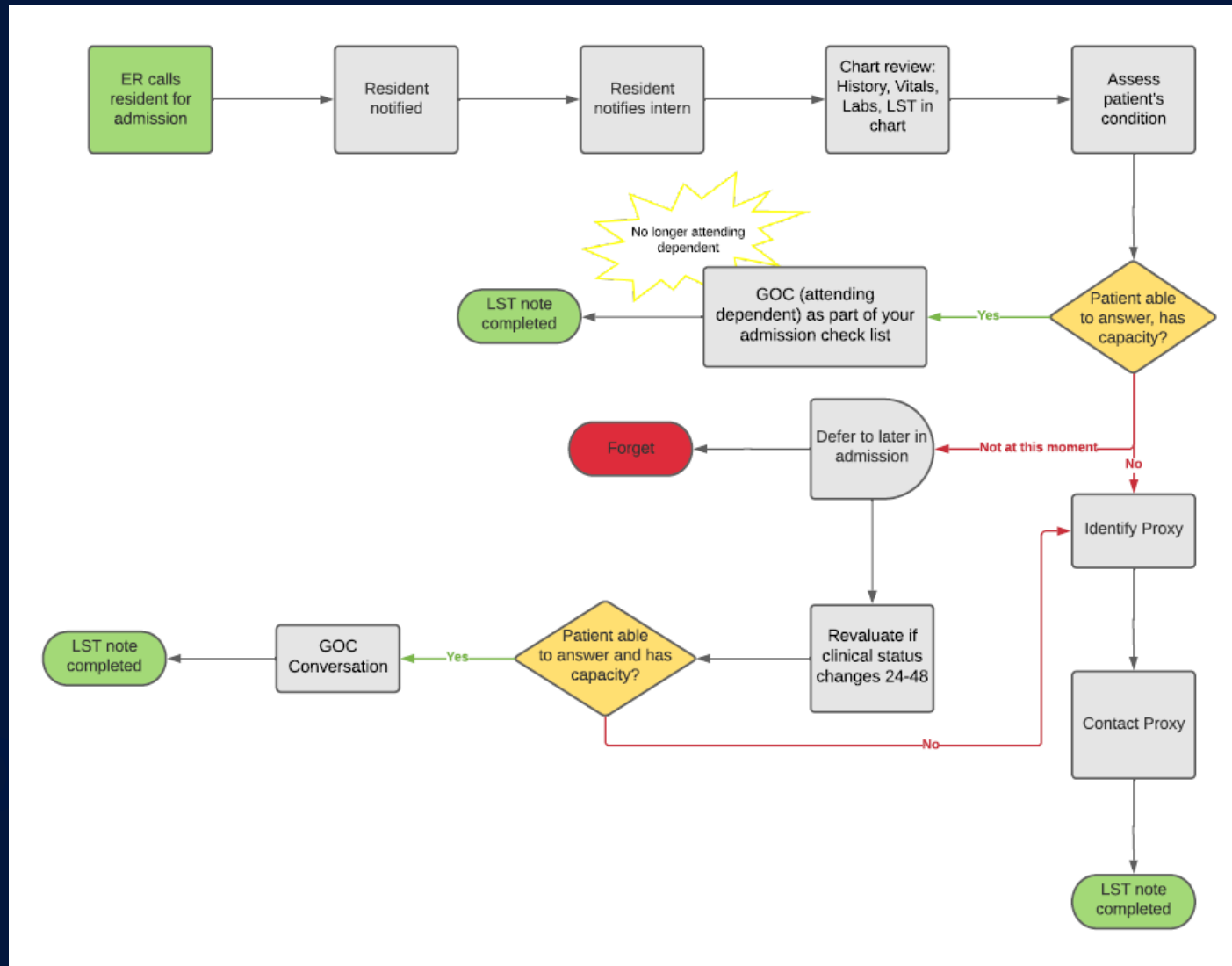
< 20% of residents could name every component of an LST note

35% of residents did not get any informal or formal training on writing LST notes

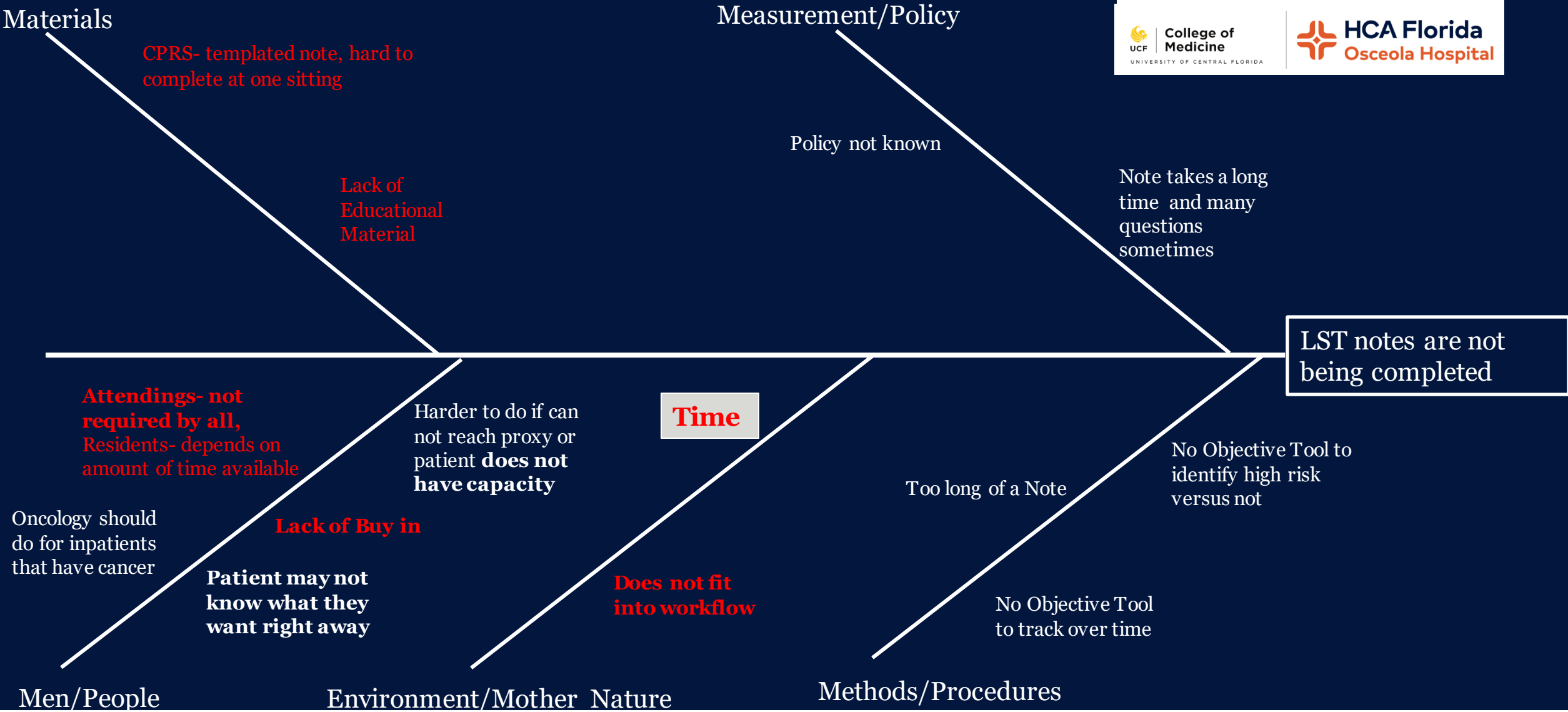
< 50% of residents had written >11 LST notes



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Interventions

iPads for LST topic educational videos for patients

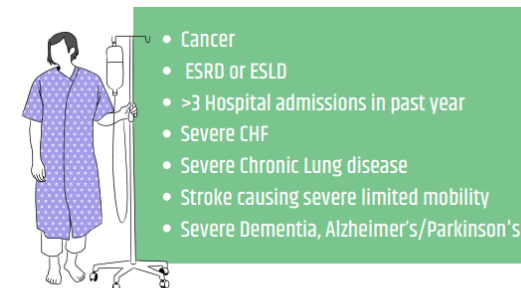
AHD presentation on LST notes 09/2021

Senior Education on VA Wards for LST Note Completion

Distribution of flyers to Residents and Hospitalists

Flyer distribution on UCF Teams Resident Group Ct

Lanyards with QR Code



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Data Collection Method

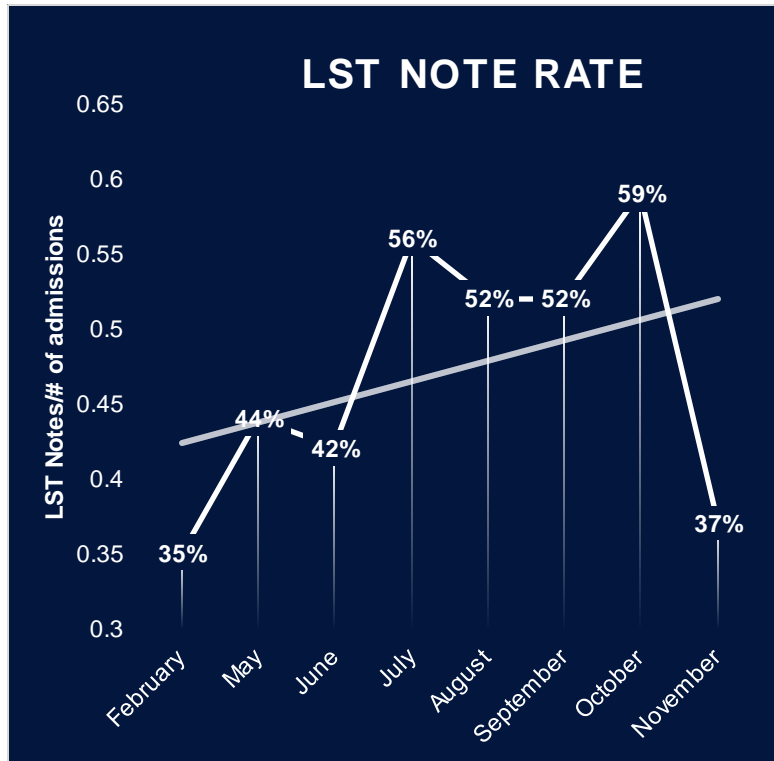
- Monthly inpatient admissions tracker data
- Categorizing patients to high risk or not
- Using surprise question
- Checking if LST was done before admission or during admission within the last year
- Previously utilizing CAN Score

Discontinued use as CAN Score was found to be non-specific in the inpatient setting

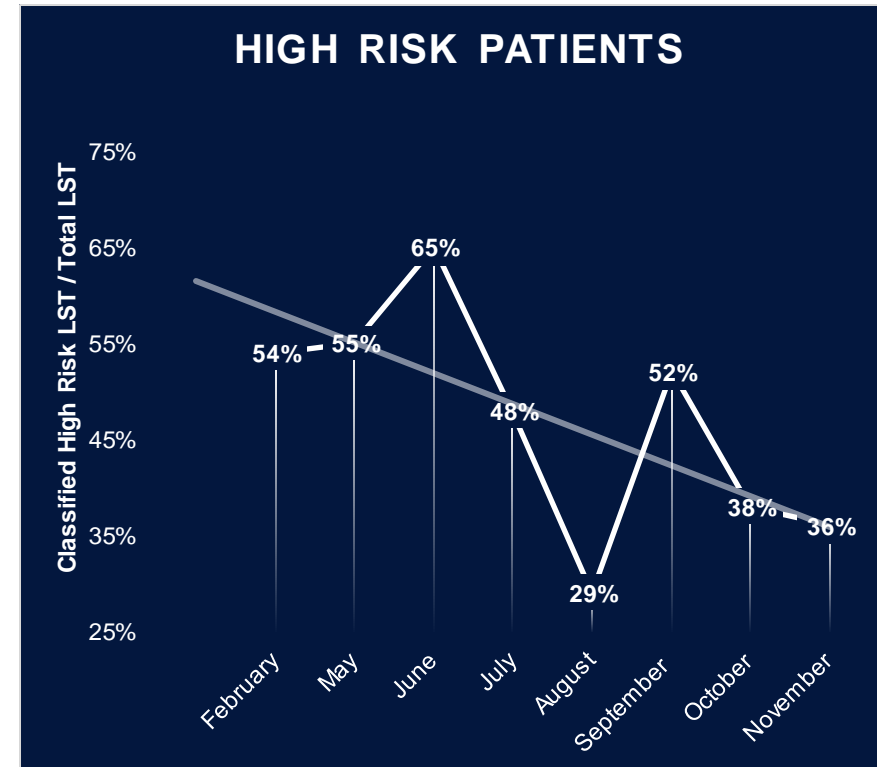




Do people do LST Notes?



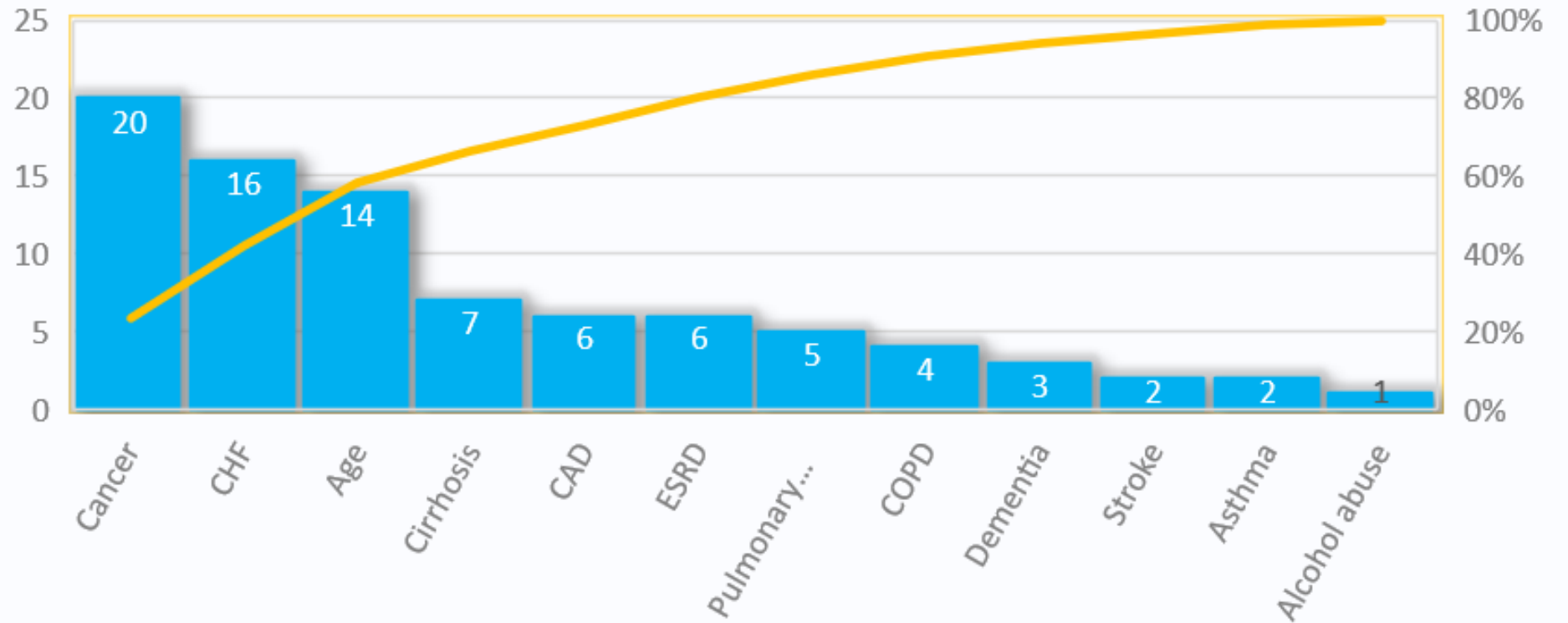
What percent of high-risk patients have LST notes?



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High Risk Conditions in Patients without an LST Note May 2021-October 2021



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Conclusion

- We have increased the rate of LST notes
- Need to increase identification of high-risk patients and ensure LST notes are completed appropriately
- Further post-intervention data review

Next Steps:

- Continue GOC education
- Work to identify high risk patients
- Appropriate LST notes
- Identify high-risk groups that are being missed