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Limb Alert: Increasing Staff Awareness and Communication

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Background

- Patient safety is healthcare's number one goal; it is the driving factor behind many policies, laws, and organizations here at CMC.
- Our why is derived from firsthand experiences from nurses that have almost used a protected extremity.
- Natalie had a patient who needed an IV and had an AV fistula in his L arm. IV team came and was about to start an IV on that arm and she had to tell them not to.

Purpose

- To protect our patients and their affected extremities.

PICO Question

- Increasing nursing communication and awareness when it comes to patient limbs and extremities that cannot be used for whatever reason there may be (PICC, Central Line, AV fistula, etc.)

Benchmark

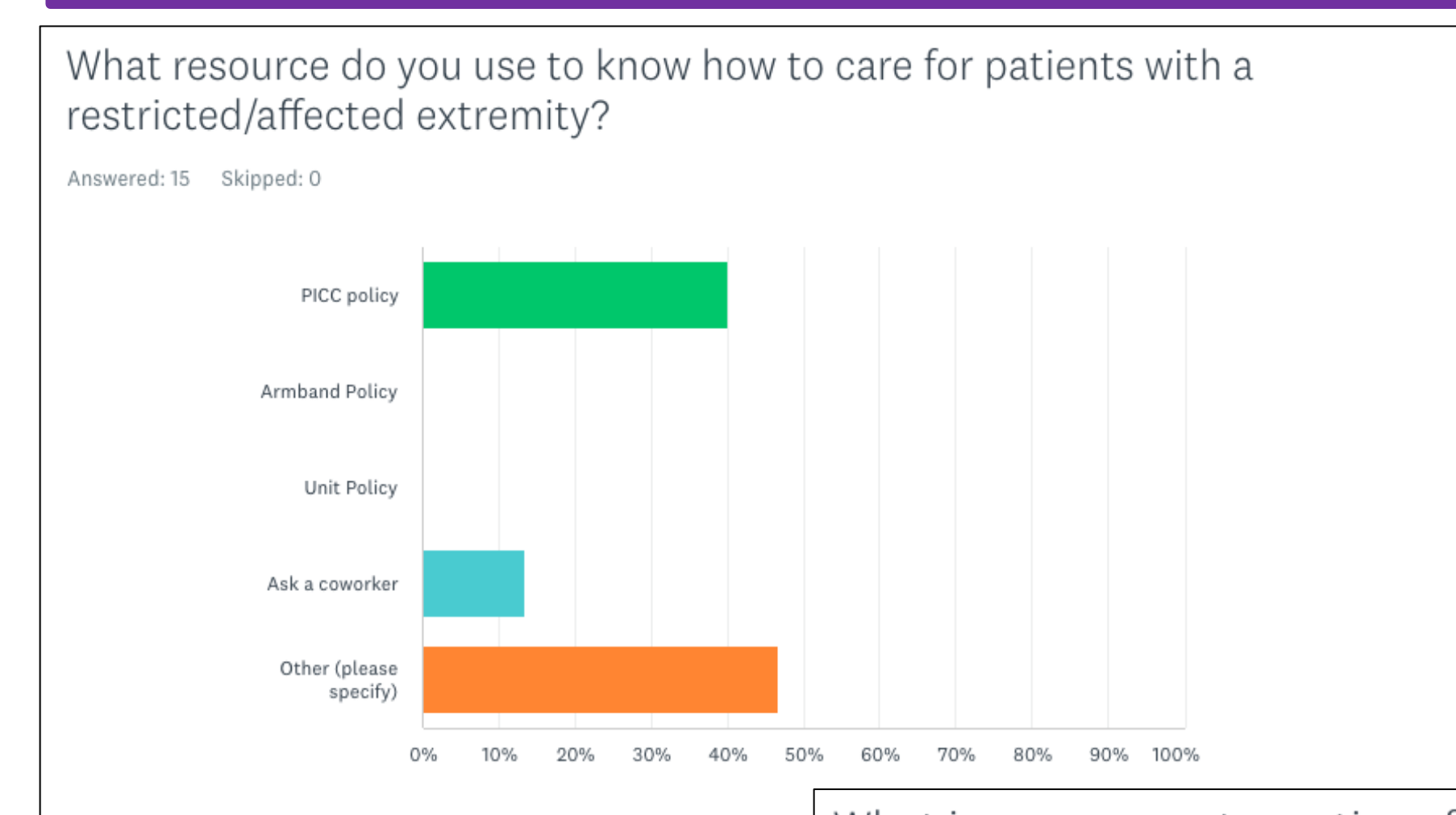
- According to IHI (the Institute for Healthcare Improvement) synthetic dialysis accesses account for \$1 billion in complication costs for Medicare and \$1.5 billion per CMS.

Armband	Identification	Allergy	Fall Risk	Restricted Limb
John Peter Smith Hospital (Ft Worth, TX)	White	Red	Yellow	Bright Pink
Children's Medical Center (Dallas, TX)	White	Red	Yellow	NONE

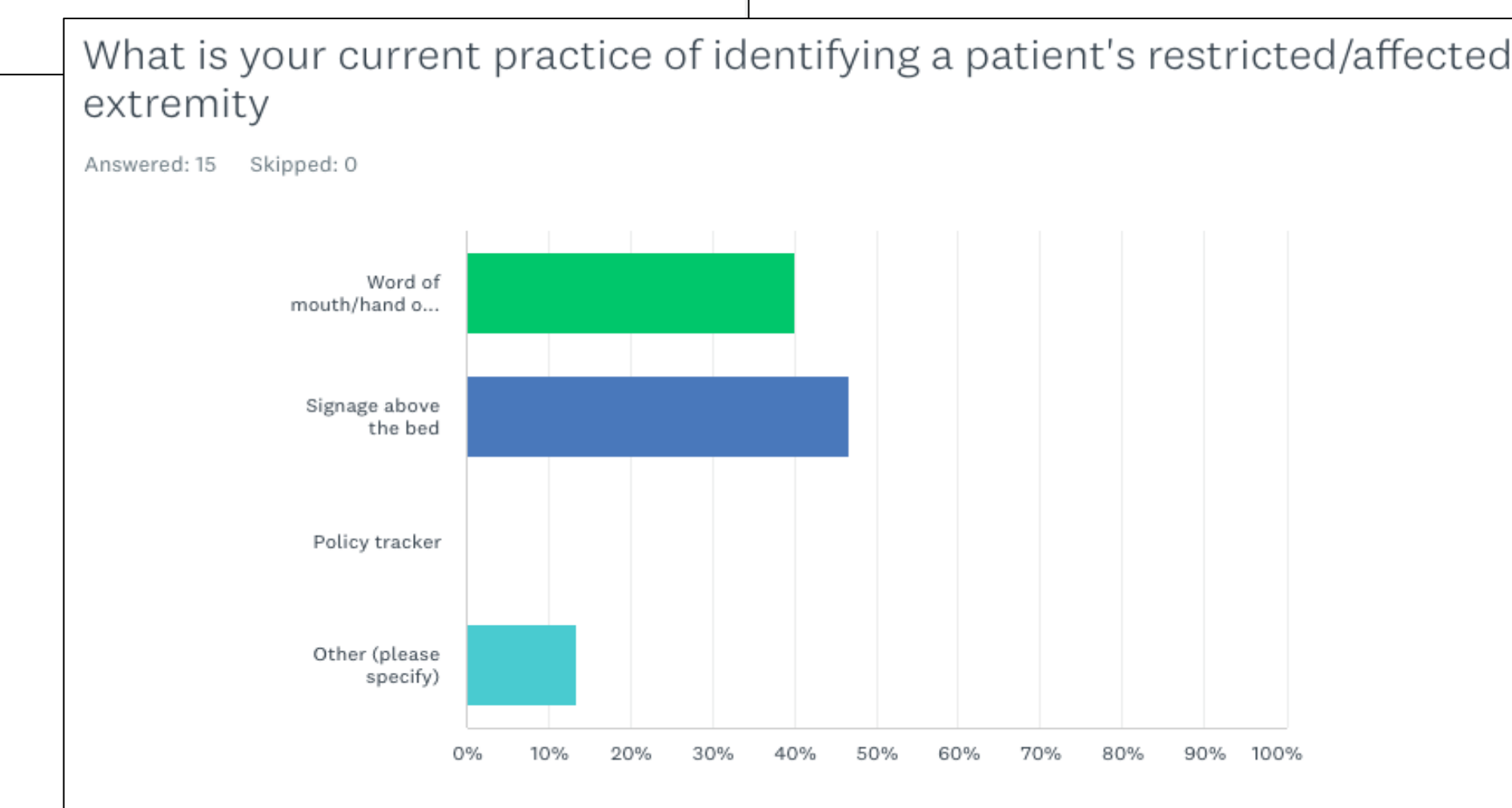
- As you can see by this chart, JPS, has a wristband that identifies restricted limbs for the staff. While JPS wristband is bright pink, we are making ours bright orange. The health care staff from HUC's to Doctors will be able to look at this wrist band and realize the restricted limb. This wristband will limit potential major mistakes on restricted limbs.

Outcomes

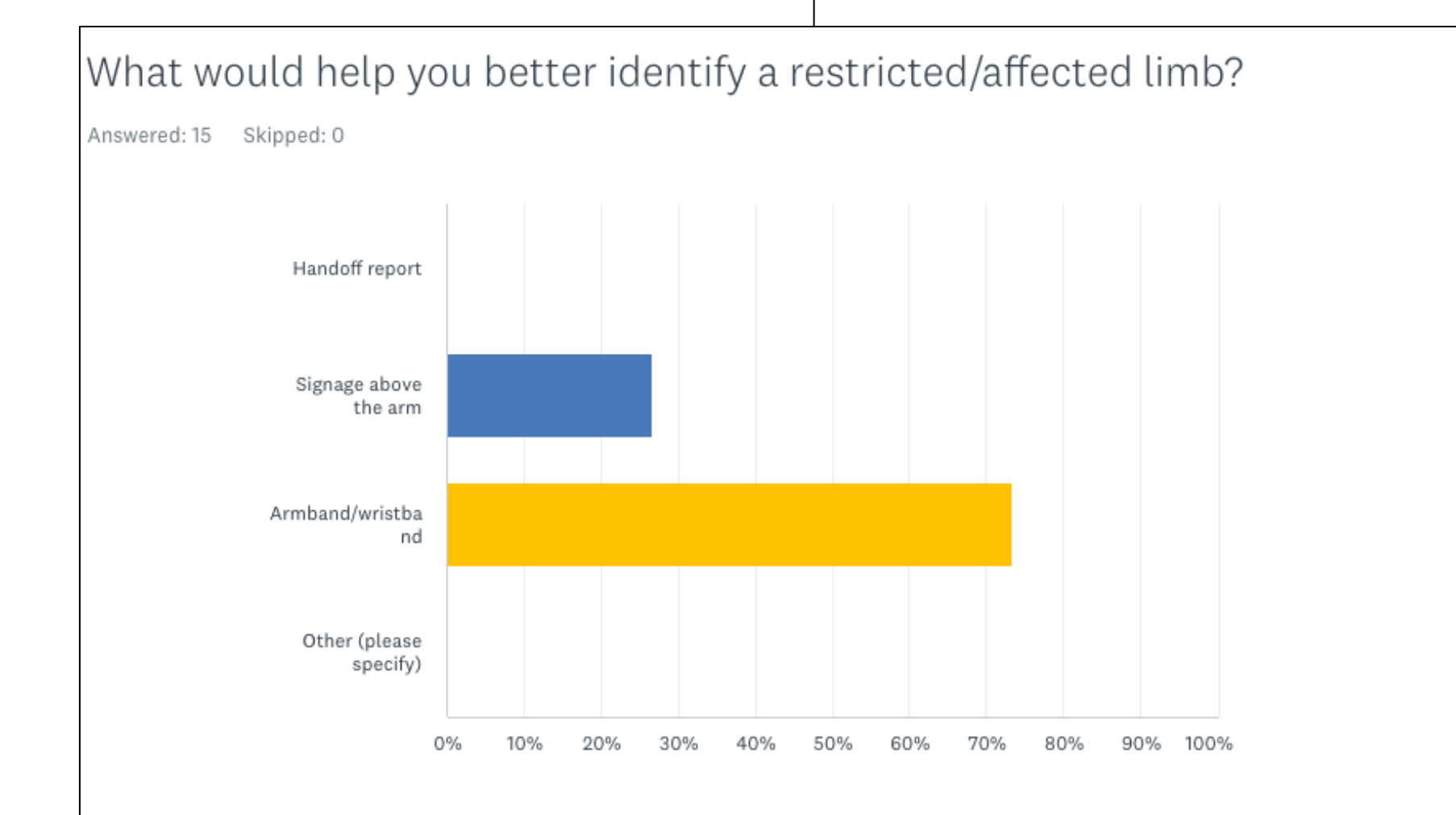
- **Our Outcomes are ongoing**
- We predict the limb alert band will promote patient safety.
- By using the orange Limb Alert band we hope to prevent harm and human error and to promote the safety of patients who have an effected extremity from a PICC, DVT, possible DVT, AV fistula, etc.. The limb alert band will notify all staff members (IV team, phlebotomy, Nurses, Nurse techs, OR, radiology, etc.) that that extremity may not be used for any procedures.



PICC Policy: 40%
Ask a coworker: 13.33%
Other: 46.67%



Word of mouth/handoff report: 40%
Signage above the bed: 46.67%
Other: 13.33%



Signage above bed: 26.67%
Armband/wristband: 73.33%

Current state and next steps

- According to National Patient Safety Goals by Joint Commission, 2022, one of the goals is to improve the effectiveness of communication among caregivers. We recommend the use of Limb alert hospital wide to meet this safety goal.
- A post-pilot survey will be shared to participants of the pilot

Pilot

Pre-survey

1. What resource do you use to know how to care for patients with a restricted/affected extremity?
2. What is your current practice of identifying a patient restricted/affected extremity?
3. What would help you better identify a restricted/affected extremity?

Instructions for Limb Alert Bands:

- Please place limb alert band on any patient who has an extremity affected by PICC, DVT, possible DVT, fistula, etc.
- Place limb alert band to affected extremity.
- We want to protect the limb from having bps taken, tourniquets, lab draws, and IV starts.

For example:

- Your patient has a possible DVT in their right arm and is still waiting on result of the ultrasound. No blood pressures, blood draws, or IV starts should be done to this arm.
- You would then place a limb alert band to the right arm to communicate to all staff including other nurses, nurse techs, IV team, phlebotomy, OR, and any other staff member who will be caring for the patient that this patient has a limb alert.

- 2 week pilot on D9, C11, C12

- ***Pilot is still active, please complete our survey**



Literature references here!

