

Revealing and Addressing Knowledge Gaps Regarding Biosimilars in Rheumatology Practice with Targeted Continuing Education and Patient Surveys

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1 Need for Biosimilar Education

At the time of the needs assessment (July '16)

The first biosimilar for patients with rheumatic disease had just been approved, yet¹⁻²

- Guidance for naming and labeling conventions had not yet been finalized
- Biosimilars were not mentioned in treatment guidelines

Providers lack knowledge regarding biosimilars³⁻⁴

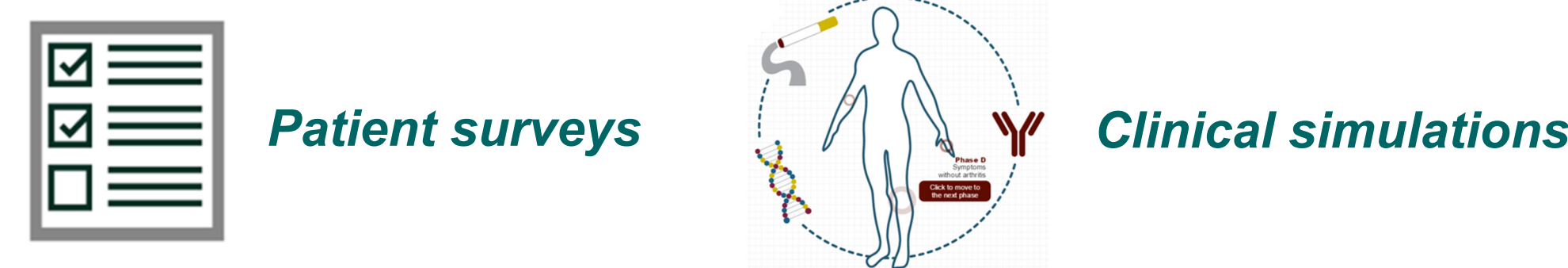
- Only 20% of biologic-prescribing providers had a complete understanding of biosimilars
- Only 36% were familiar with FDA criteria to demonstrate biosimilarity
- Only 35% and 38% of physicians and pharmacists, respectively, were familiar with the "Purple Book"

Providers do not accurately perceive patient preferences and treatment goals⁵

- 90% of rheumatologists, yet only 33% of RA patients, report good provider-patient communication

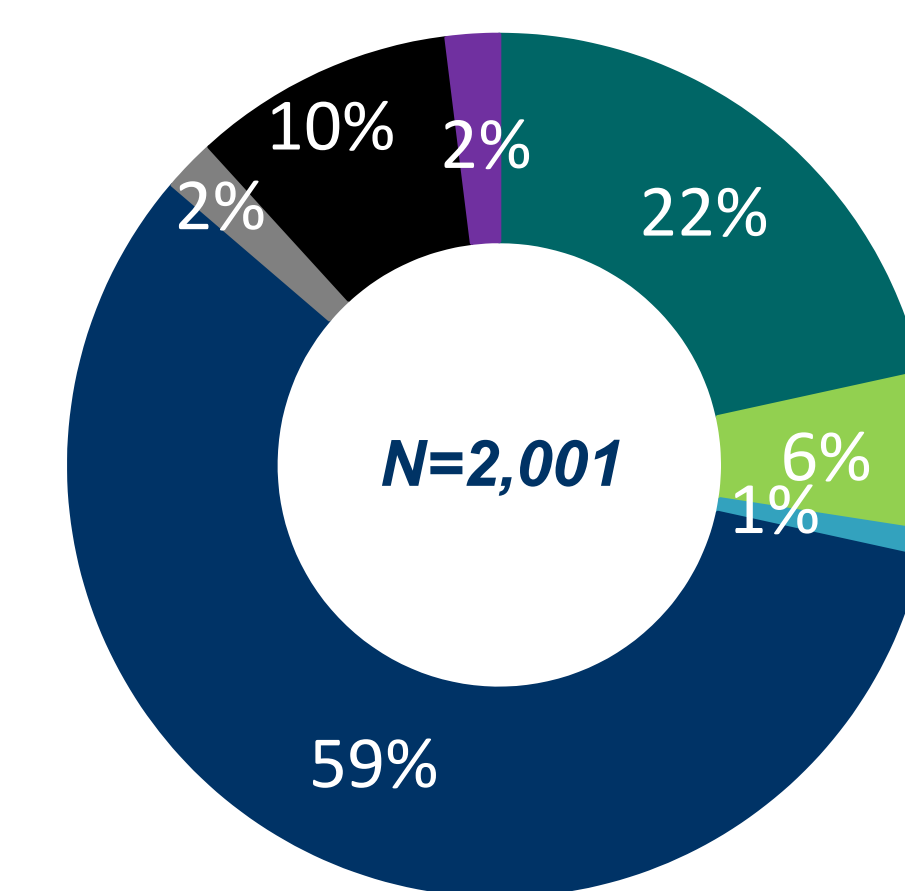
Program Goals

Address knowledge gaps and assess attitudes toward the use of biosimilars in rheumatology via:

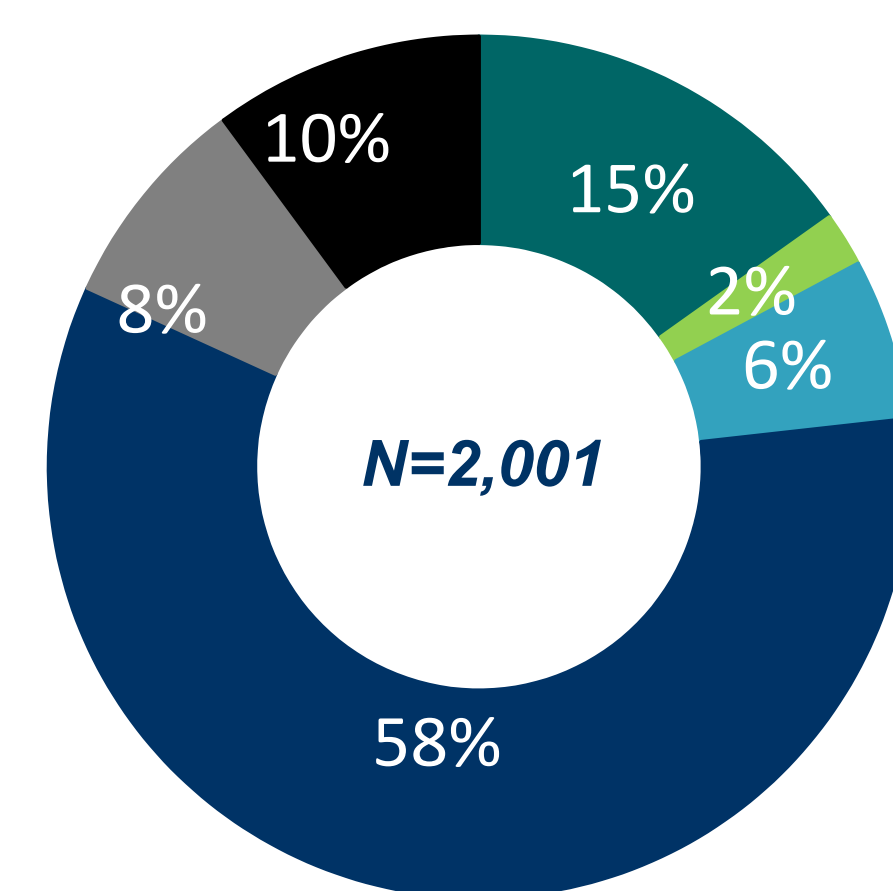


2 Participant Demographics

Degree



Specialty



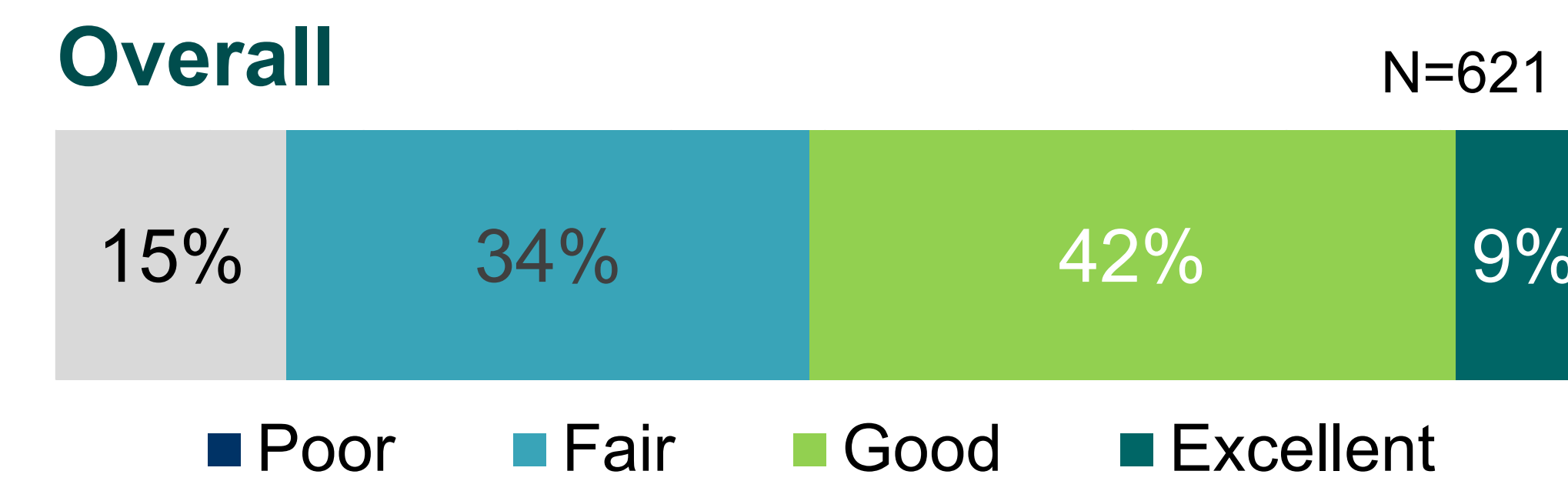
Patient Influencer Survey Respondents



17 patient influencers representative of over 680,000 patients with RA

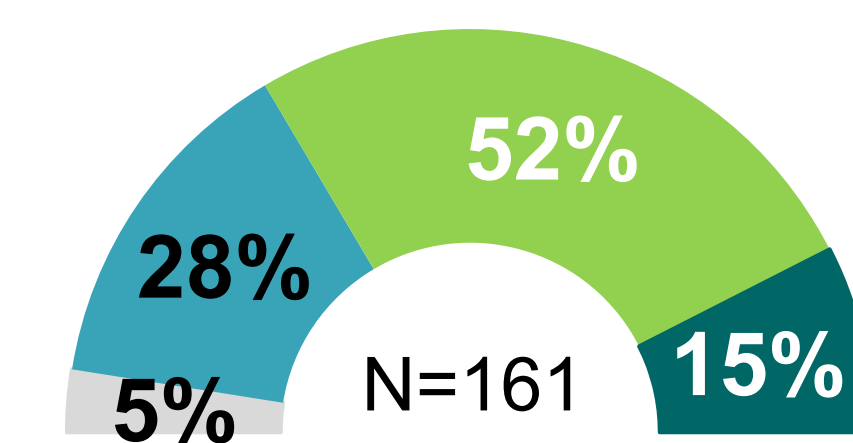
3 Knowledge of Biosimilars and Regulation

How would you rate your understanding of the differences between biosimilars and their reference products?

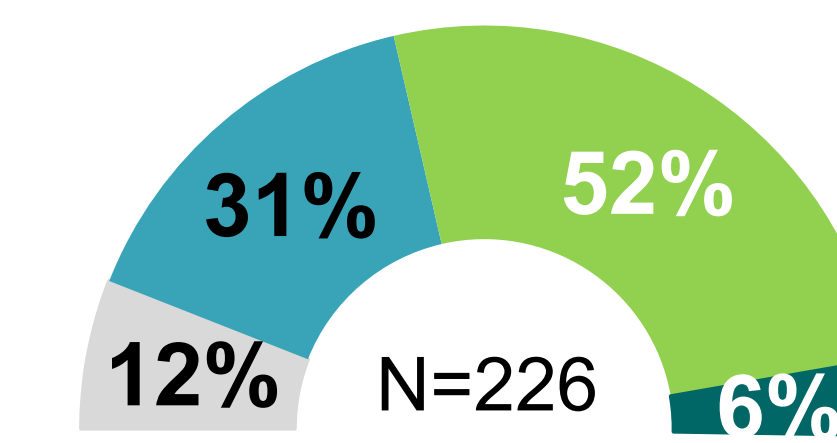


Specialty Breakout

Rheumatology

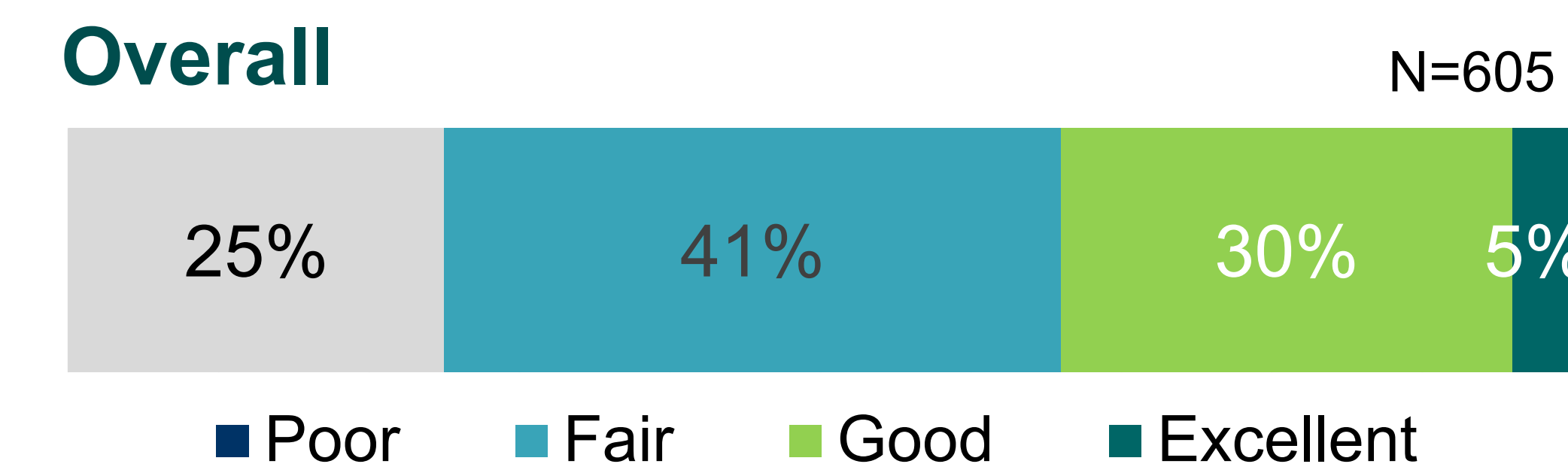


Pharmacy



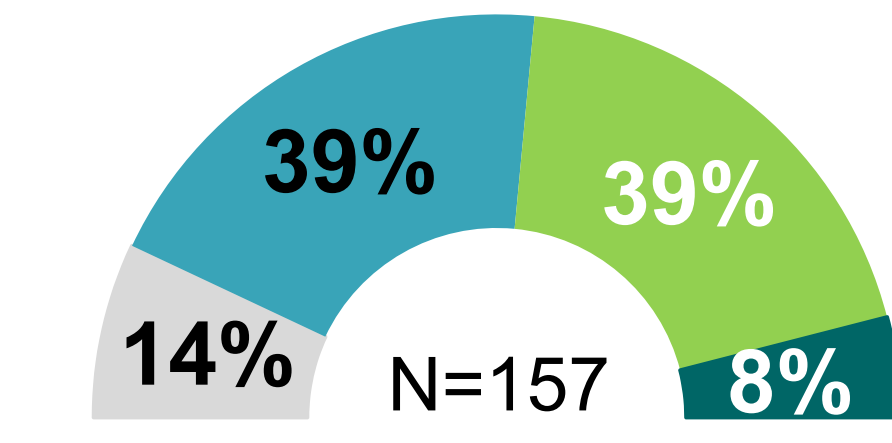
- Overall, nearly 50% lack understanding of the differences between biosimilars and their reference products
- Knowledge gap is more striking among pharmacists

How would you rate your understanding of the regulatory approval pathway for biosimilars?

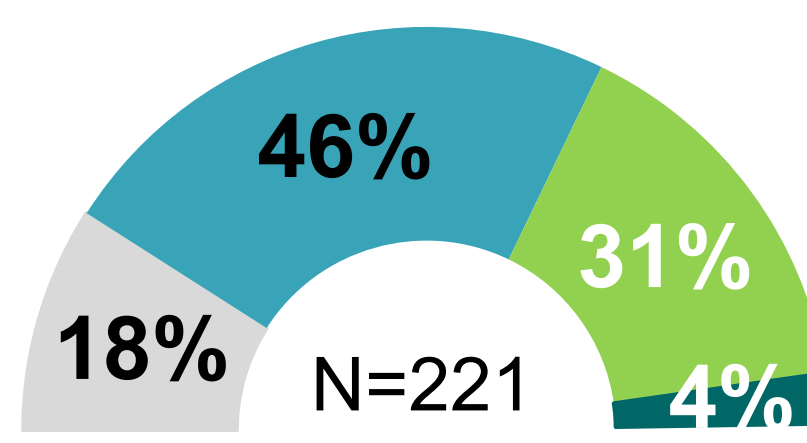


Specialty Breakout

Rheumatology



Pharmacy

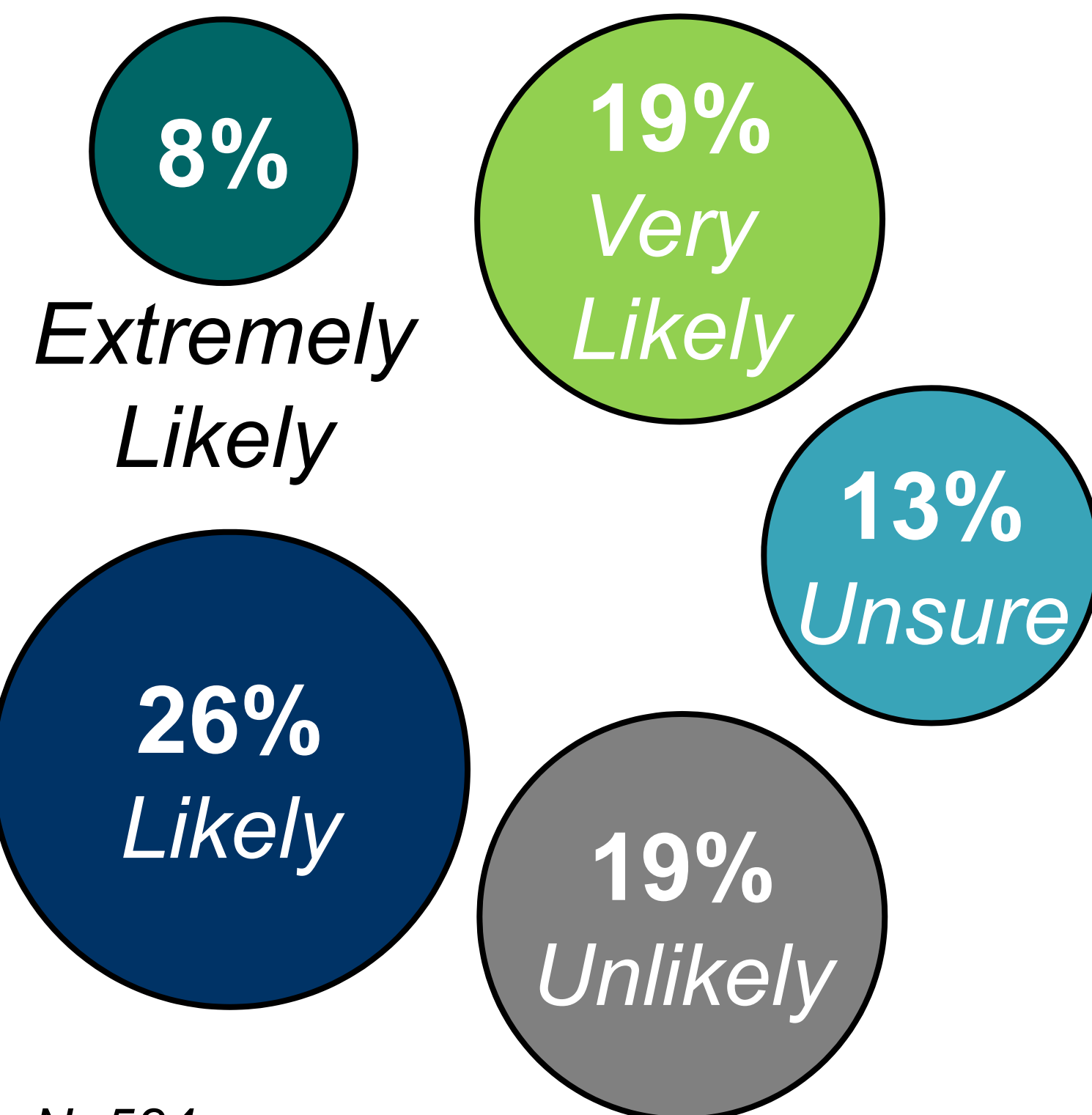


- Overall, 66% are unaware of the regulatory pathway for biosimilars
- Knowledge gap is slightly more striking among pharmacists

4 Attitudes Toward Biosimilars

Likelihood of Use

How likely are you to prescribe or administer biosimilars to patients with RA?



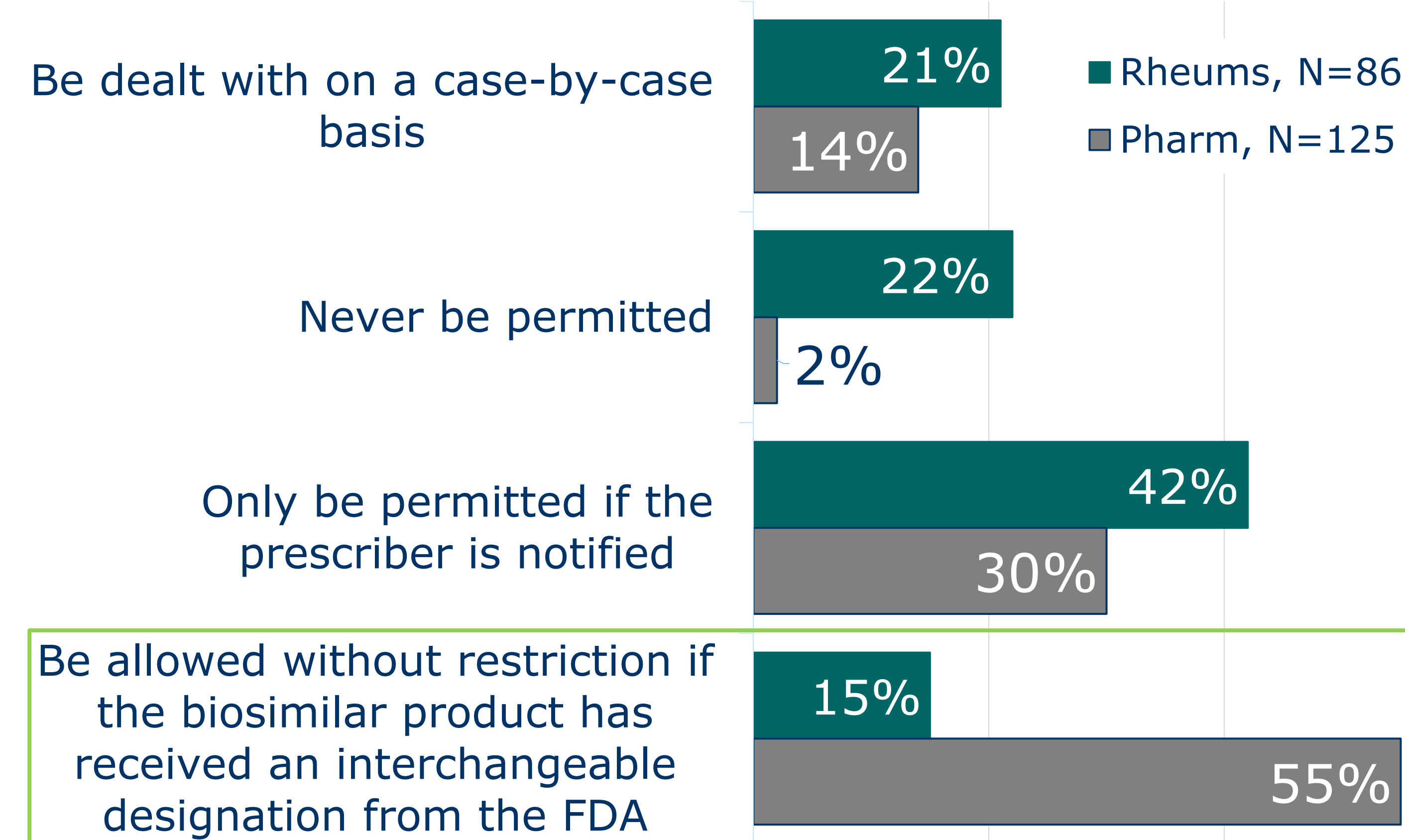
N=584

Nearly two-thirds are likely to administer biosimilars for patients with RA (77% among rheumatologists)

Interchangeability & Pharmacy-level Substitution

Which of the following statements reflects your belief regarding pharmacy-level substitution of biosimilars?

Pharmacy-level substitution of a biosimilar should:

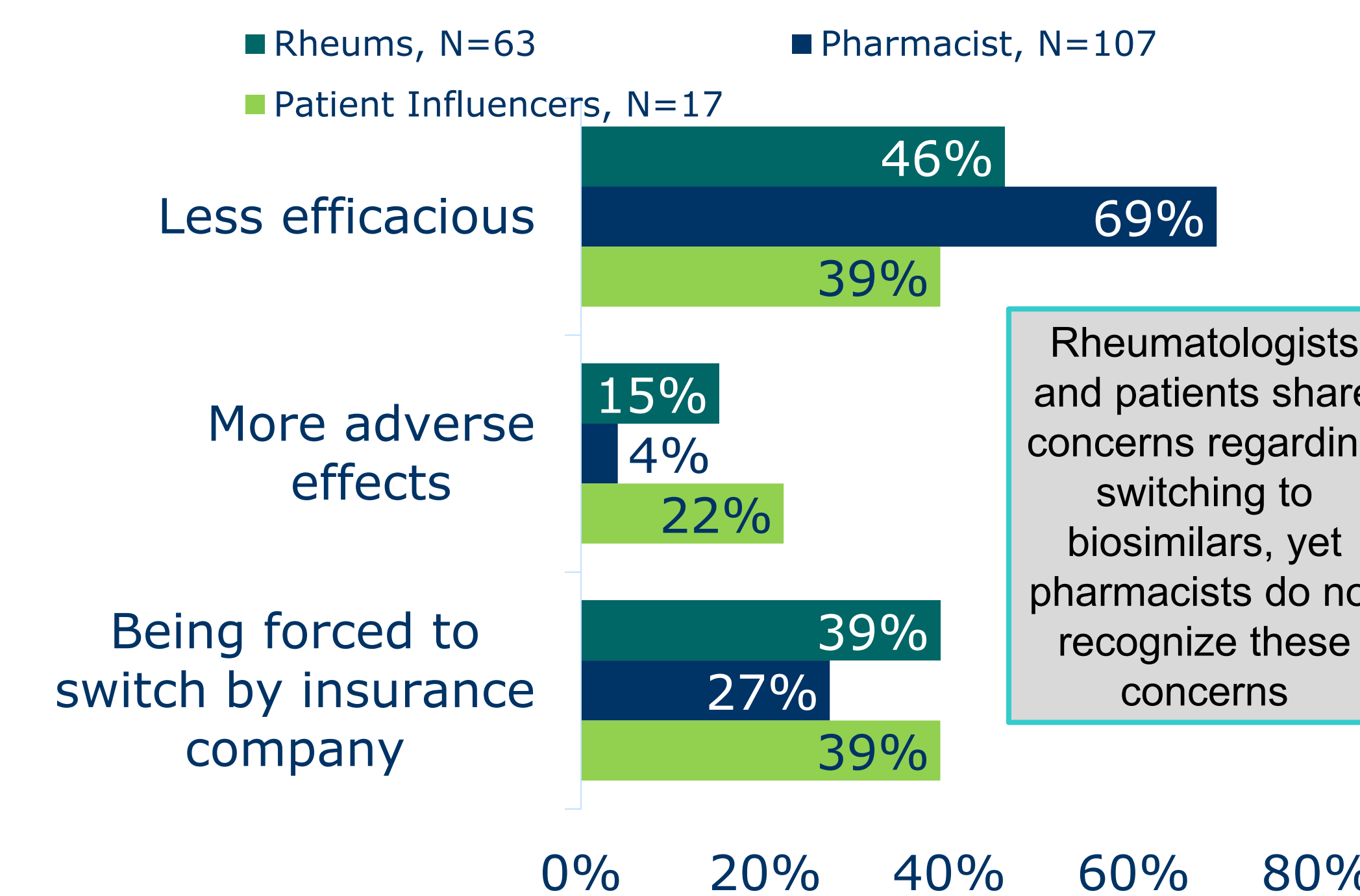


Rheumatologists want to be notified of switch to biosimilar, pharmacists would rely on FDA discretion

5 Patient Insights

“About 50% of patients are doing well on their biologic and do not want to change to a biosimilar. Then, there's probably 50% who aren't on a biologic that is working or cannot afford it, and are eager to be able to try the new biosimilars.”
- RA Patient Influencer

Providers and patients were asked about patient main concerns regarding starting or switching to biosimilars



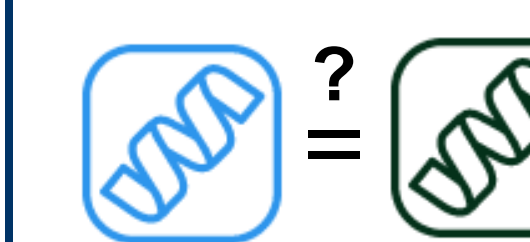
Rheumatologists and patients share concerns regarding switching to biosimilars, yet pharmacists do not recognize these concerns

6 Impact of CME & Conclusions

Educational Efficacy



Overall there was an 84% relative increase in knowledge and competence



17% relative increase regarding differences between biosimilars and reference biologics



118% relative increase in knowledge regarding regulation of biosimilars

Conclusions

As more biosimilars become available, providers will require continued education on how to incorporate these agents into practice while meeting patient goals and preferences

References
1. Food and Drug Administration. Biosimilar product information. Updated July 2018.
2. Singh JA, et al. *Arthritis Care & Res.* 2015; DOI 10.1002/acr.22783.
3. Vindico Data on File. Rheumatology. 2014-2016.
4. Dobrow L. What do doctors think about biosimilars? *Medical Marketing and Media.* May 25, 2016.
5. Dikranian A, et al. *EULAR 2016.* Abstract #SAT0640-HPR. June 11, 2016.