

FOLLOW UP NEEDS AFTER PAEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE: A SURVEY STUDY



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INTRODUCTION

Despite an increasing number of paediatric patients surviving admission to a Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), and a national drive to establish post-PICU follow up clinics, there remains **a gap in our understanding of current follow up needs** and healthcare use after PICU discharge.

OBJECTIVES

To gain an understanding of:

- (1) PICU survivors' **ongoing healthcare usage** after PICU discharge
- (2) **Primary care and specialist follow up** after PICU discharge
- (3) **Return to school** for patients, and **return to work** for their caregivers
- (4) **Perceived need for post-PICU follow up** among PICU survivors

METHOD

Design: cross-sectional survey of patients surviving their PICU admission
Setting: The Hospital for Sick Children

Patients and their caregivers were approached over seven weeks (Nov-Dec 2022 and May 2023) for consent to complete an anonymous electronic survey, three months after their discharge from PICU.

Survey domains:

1. Healthcare access after PICU discharge
2. Return to work and school after PICU discharge
3. Caregiver interest in a PICU follow up program

Exclusion criteria: patients admitted <24 hours or who were not expected to survive

Descriptive statistics were used to describe patient and caregiver characteristics and responses. Likert scale responses were summarized.

RESULTS

Figure 1: Survey respondent flowchart

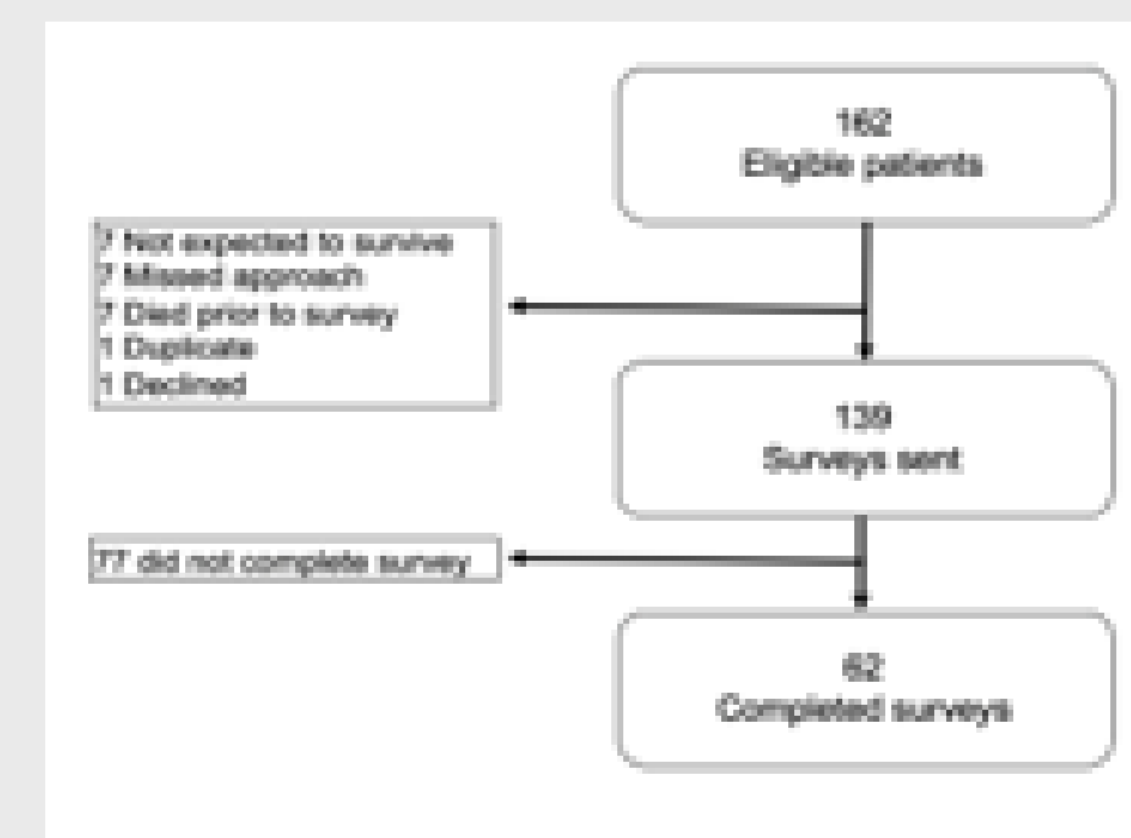


Figure 2: Post-Discharge health care use and needs

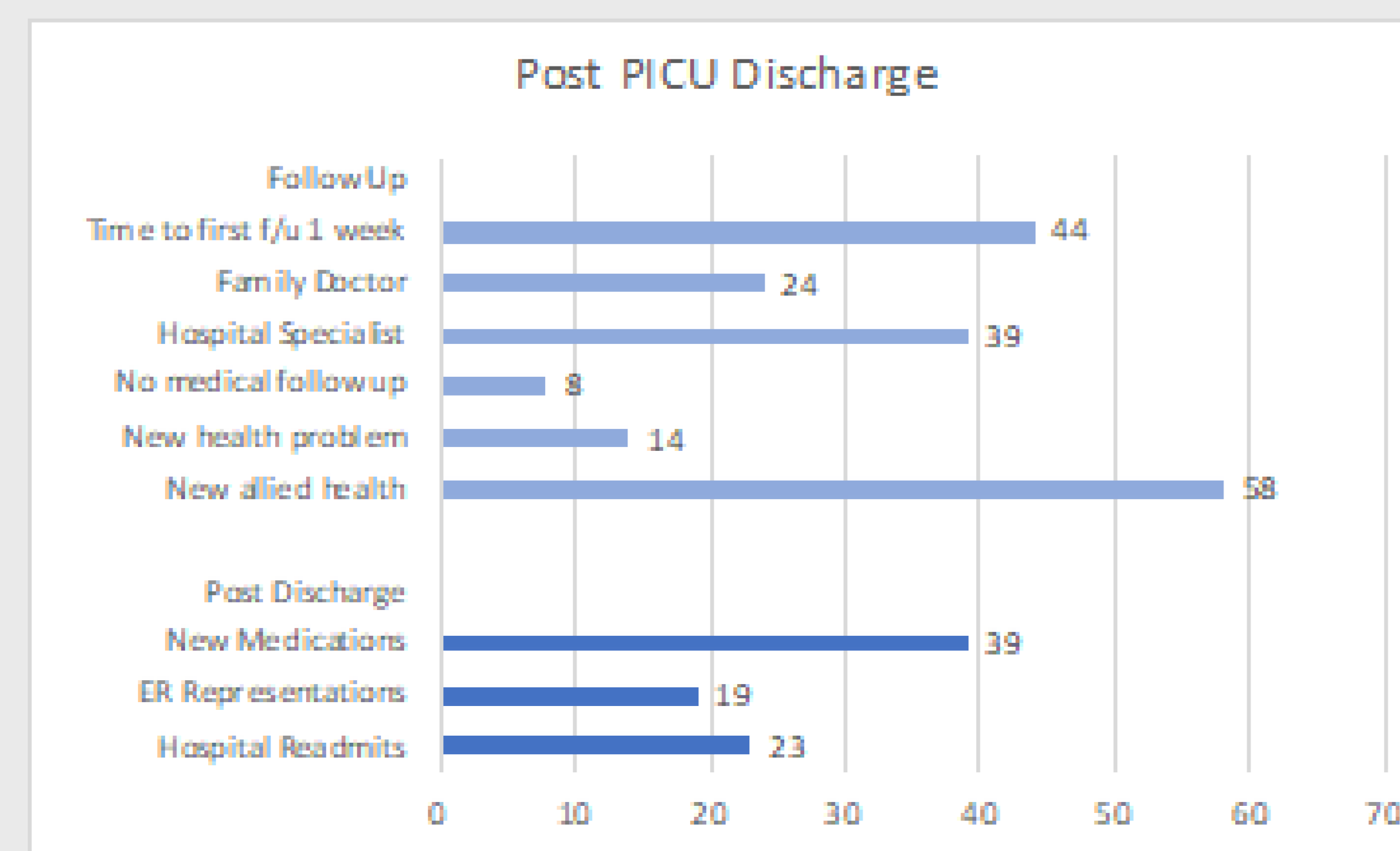


Figure 3: Return to school and work after PICU discharge

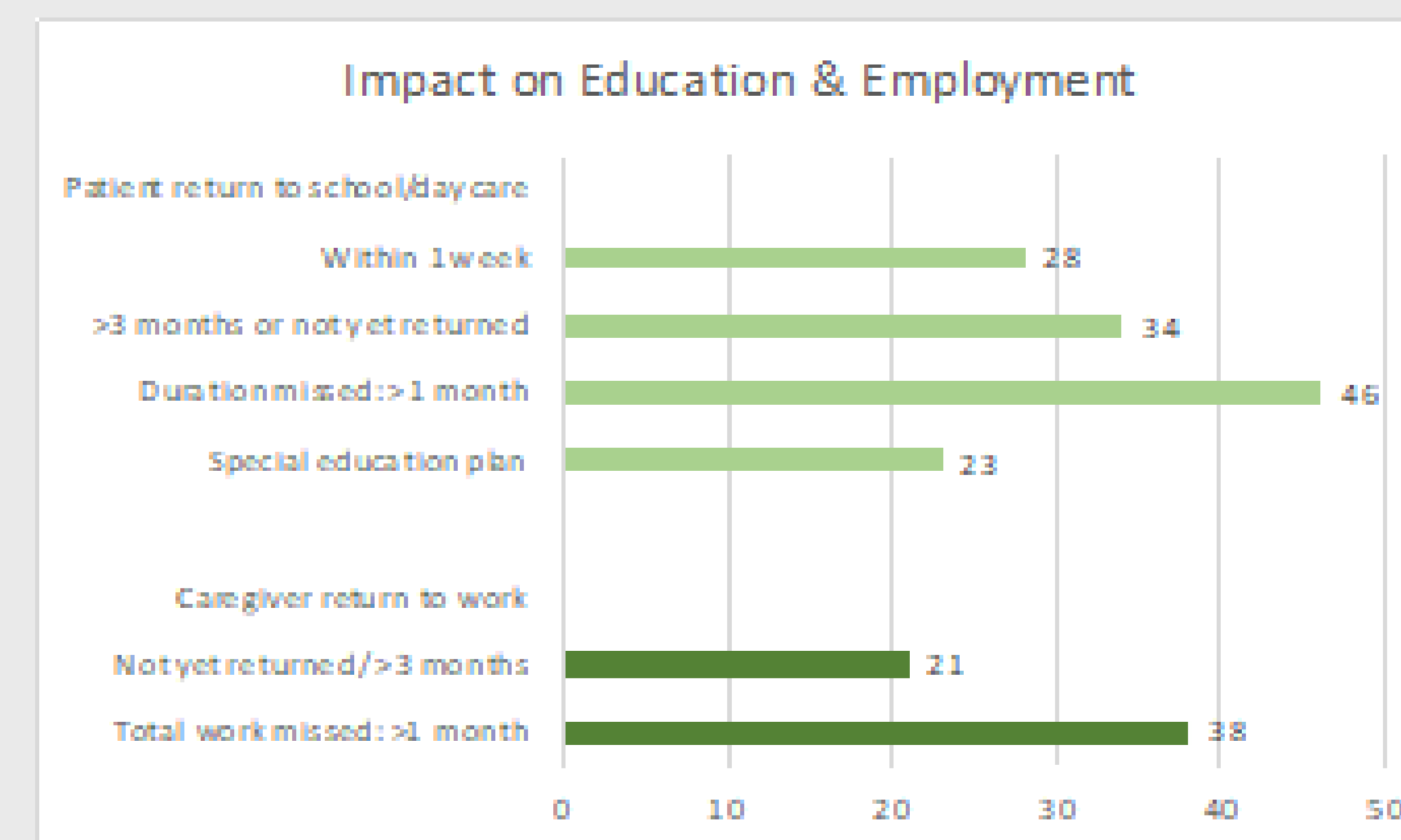
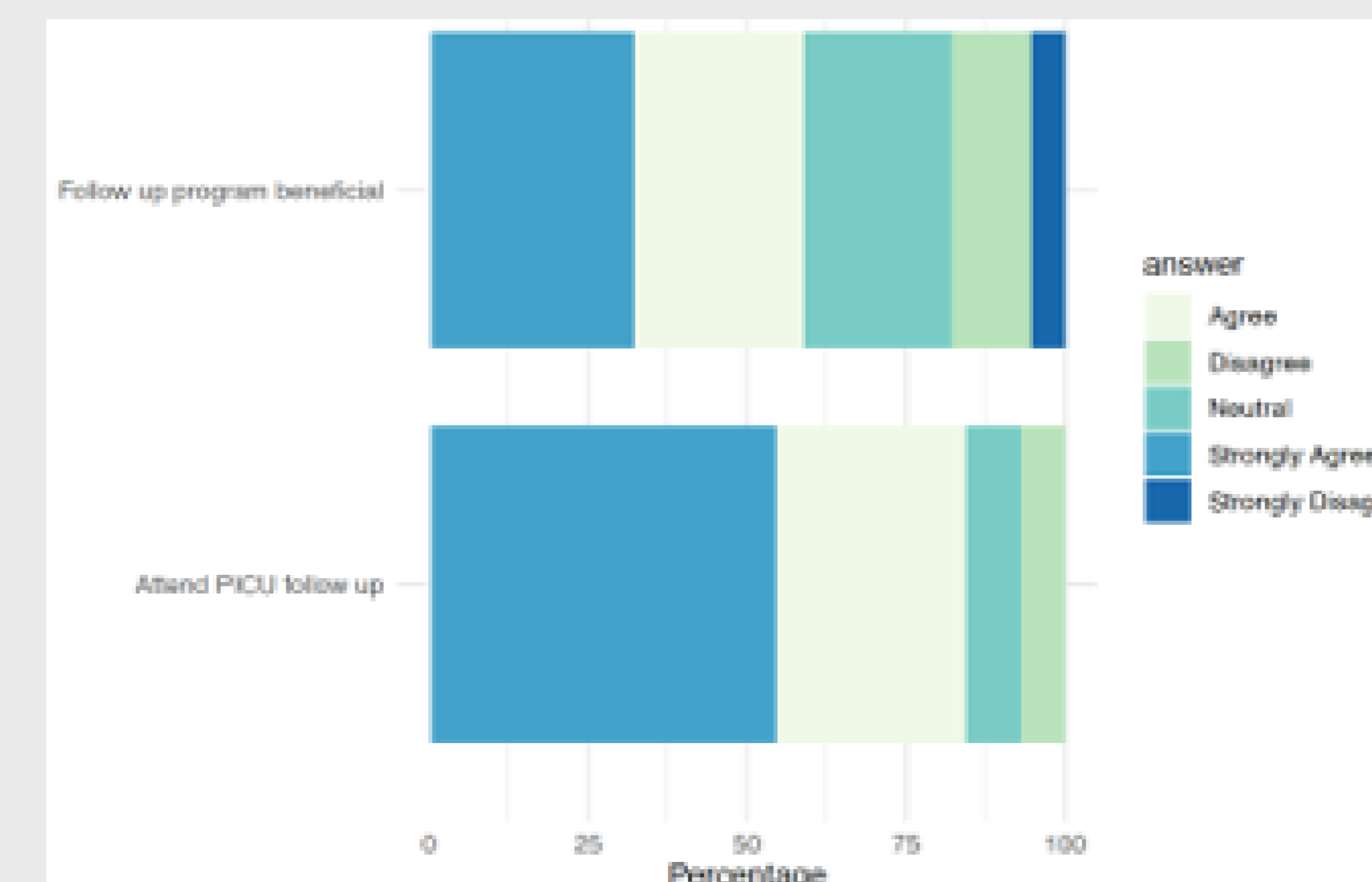


Figure 4: Likert scale responses for perceived follow up needs



CONCLUSION

This survey demonstrates:

- ✓ Ongoing reliance on healthcare services following PICU discharge
- ✓ Potential financial burden associated with delays in caregivers return to work
- ✓ A number of survivors requiring specialized education plans after returning to school
- ✓ An interest in post-PICU follow up among some caregivers of PICU survivors

Further work is required to better understand which populations amongst PICU survivors would be likely to benefit from tailored followed up.

AUTHORS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following individuals for their thoughtful input and feedback during survey development and piloting:

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REFERENCES

Fayed N, Cameron S, Fraser D et al. Priority outcomes in critically ill children: a patient and parent perspective. *Am. J. Crit. Care.* 2020;29:e94-e103.

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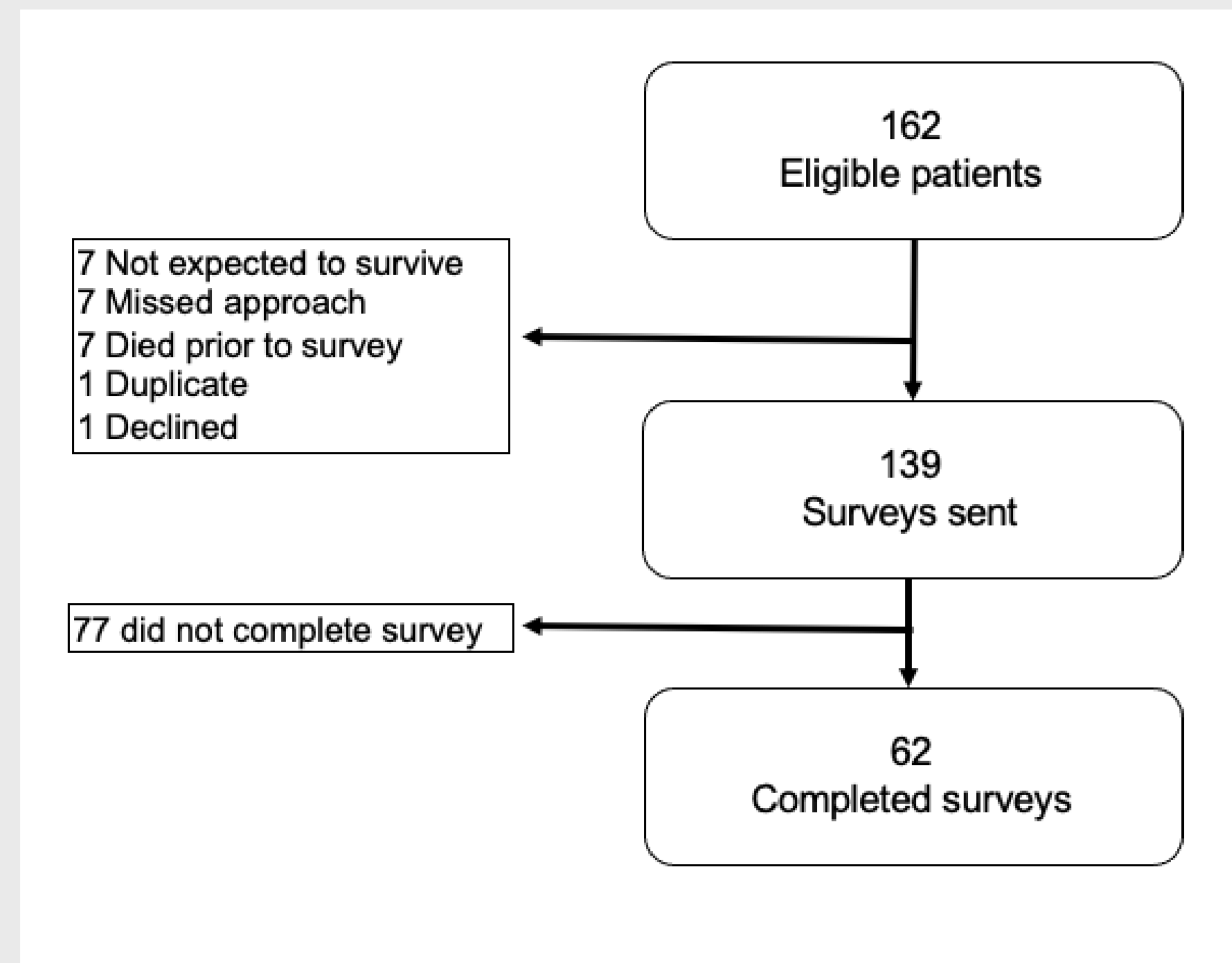


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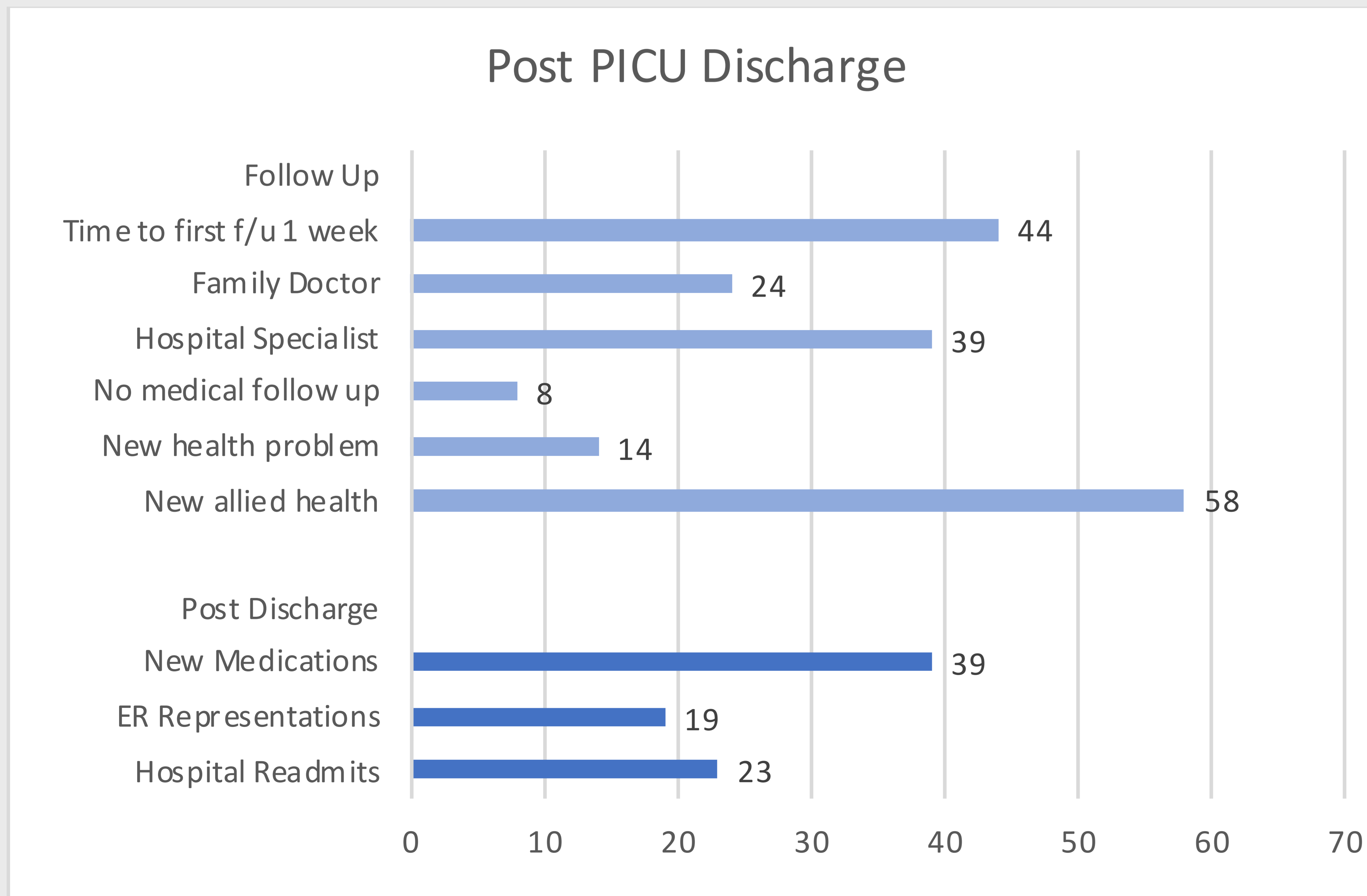


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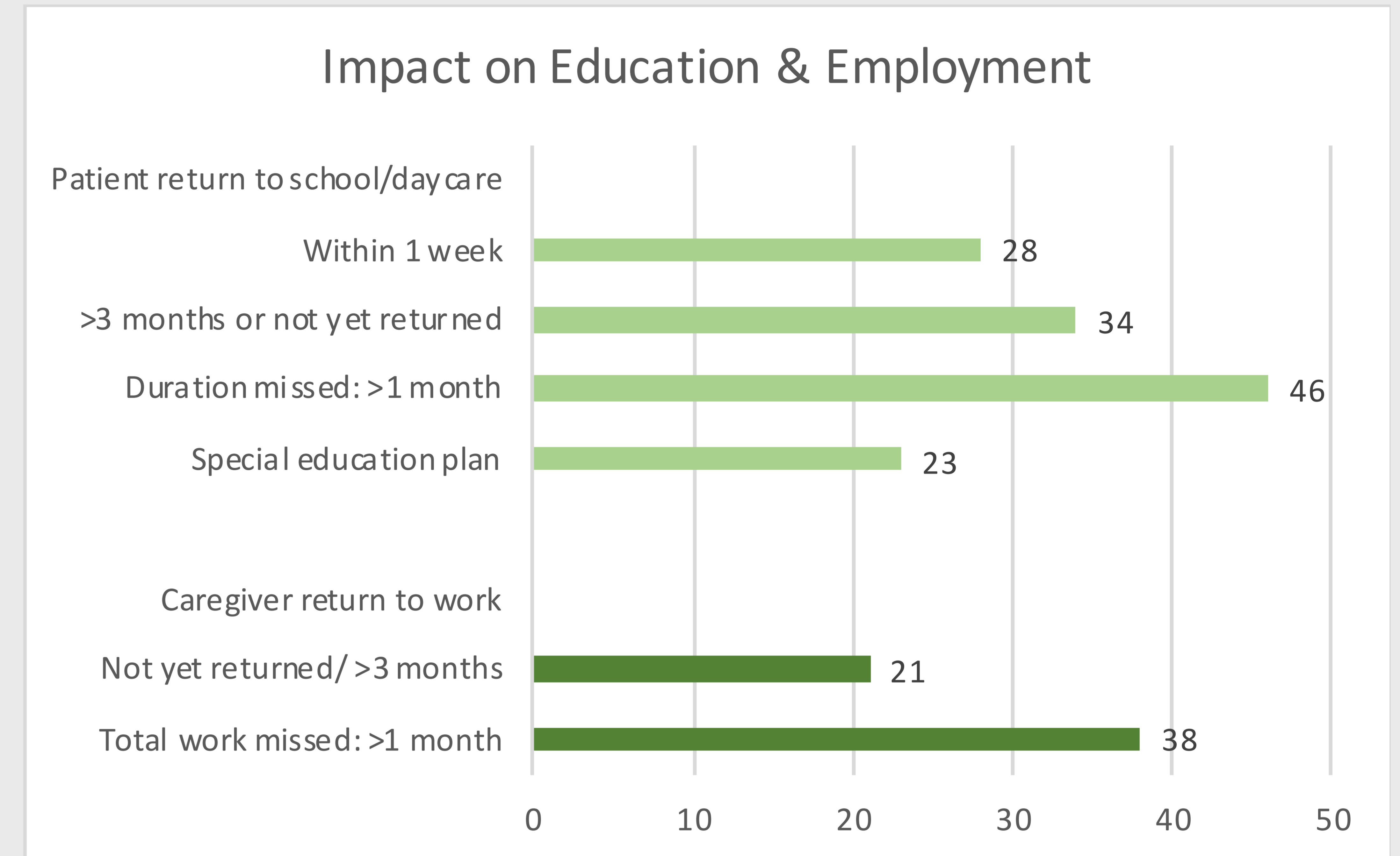
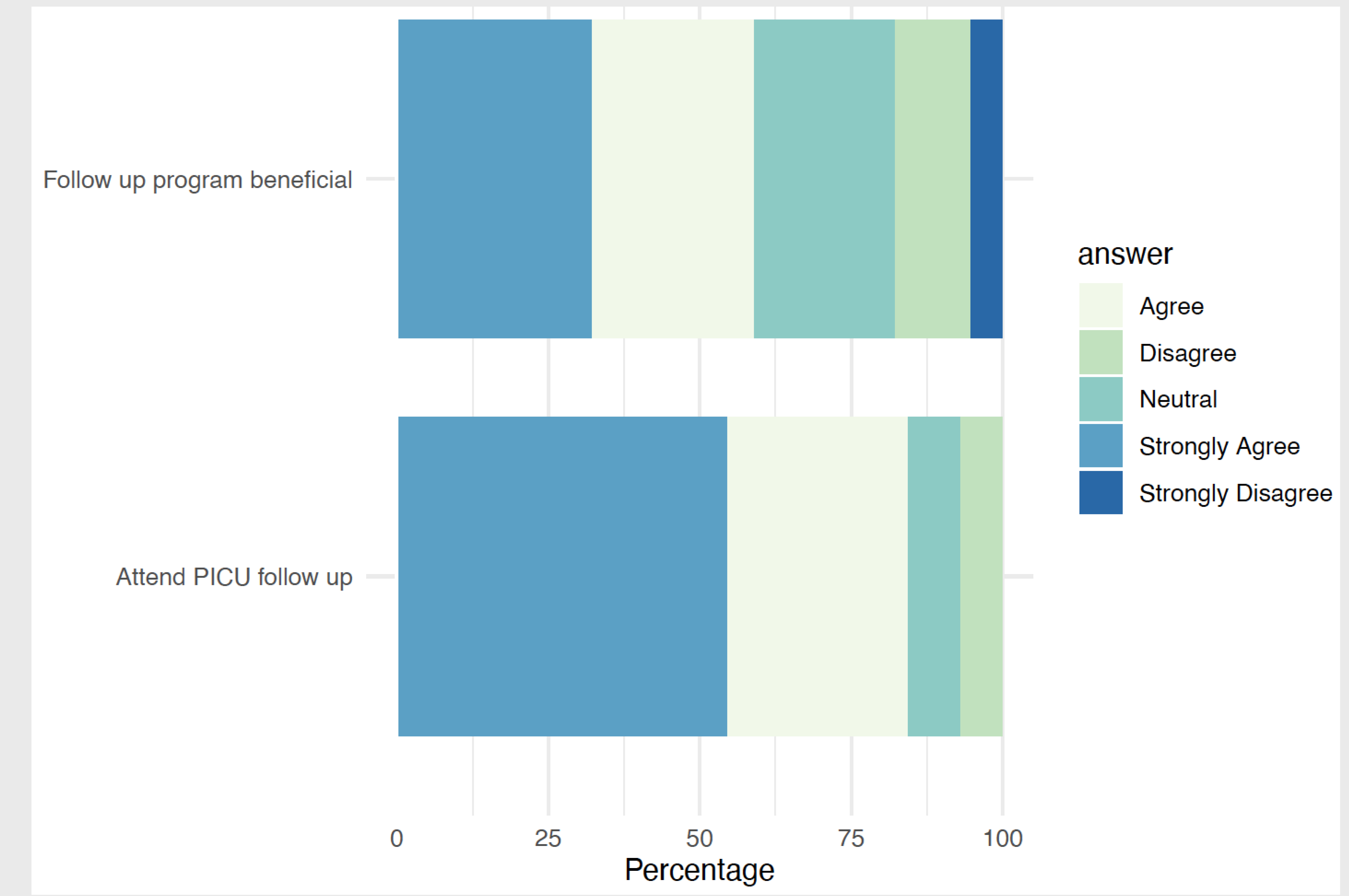


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