

Journal enhanced publication content (EPC) offerings by therapy area: **disparities and opportunities**

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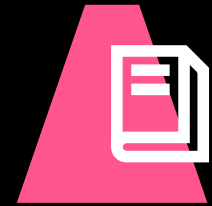
Aim

To explore EPC offerings by journal therapy area and impact factor (IF), including EPC placement and accessibility.



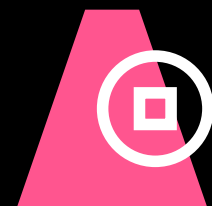
Conclusions

- EPC offerings appeared to vary by type, therapy area and journal IF; graphical abstracts were the most frequently offered EPC, irrespective of IF, and were most often located alongside the main article text.
- Despite GPP 2022 endorsement,³ the volume of information about EPC offerings varied across journals and therapy areas, potentially highlighting an opportunity for publishers to enhance or clarify their editorial guidelines on EPC offerings.



Background

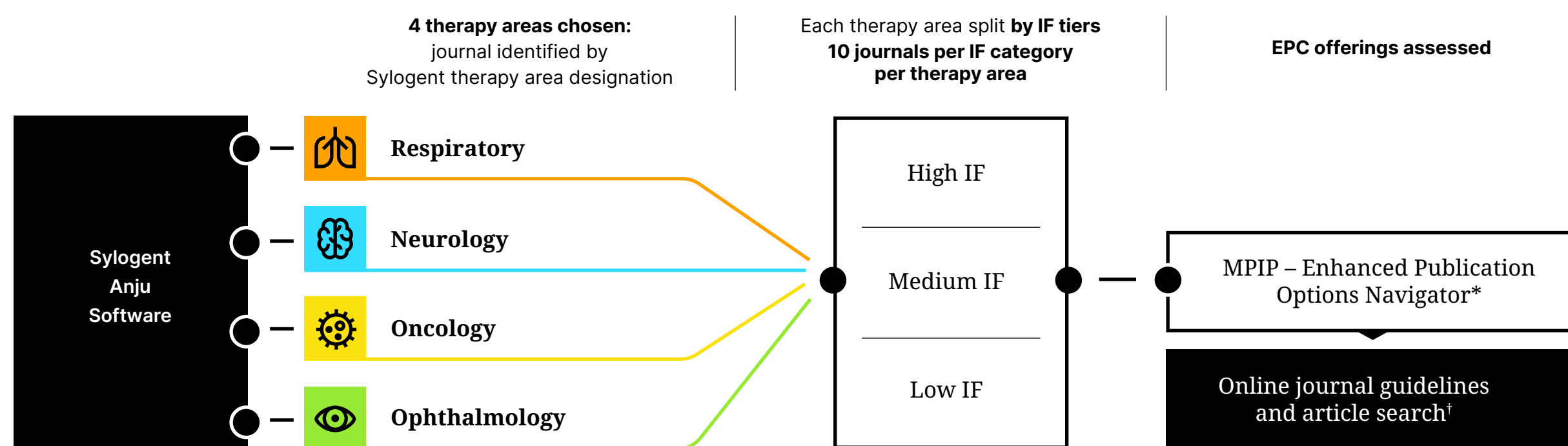
- EPC can offer a more engaging format for summarising research findings than traditional scholarly journal articles.^{1,2}
- In the most recent update, GPP 2022 guidelines endorse EPC provided it is developed in accordance with the same ethical and quality principles as the main publication.³



Limitations

- Trends reported here may be impacted by selecting different journals or therapy areas.
- EPC analyses by IF, location within the article and consistency of offerings were limited to the journals offering EPC, which further restricted sample sizes, especially for ophthalmology.
- The data were limited to what information could be identified within journal guidelines, or by manual searching through journal articles in November 2023, and do not account for more recent updates to journal guidelines.

Methods



Invitation-only journals were excluded. For each therapy area, journals were ranked by IF (highest to lowest) as provided by Sylogent (23 November 2023). The top 10 and bottom 10 IF journals were included in the "high" and "low" designations, respectively, and "medium" IF journals were the 10 closest journals to the median IF per therapy area. Journals without IF designations were excluded. [†]<https://www.mpip-initiative.org/transparencymatters/epcn.html>. For the 0–37% of journals by therapy area that were listed on MPIP, information about EPC offerings was last reviewed up to Q4 2021 at the latest. [†]Keywords (graphical abstract/infographic/visual summary, video abstract, podcast, plain language/lay summary) were used to search the online instructions to authors provided by each journal, as well as an individual search of the journal website for articles mentioning the keywords.

Results

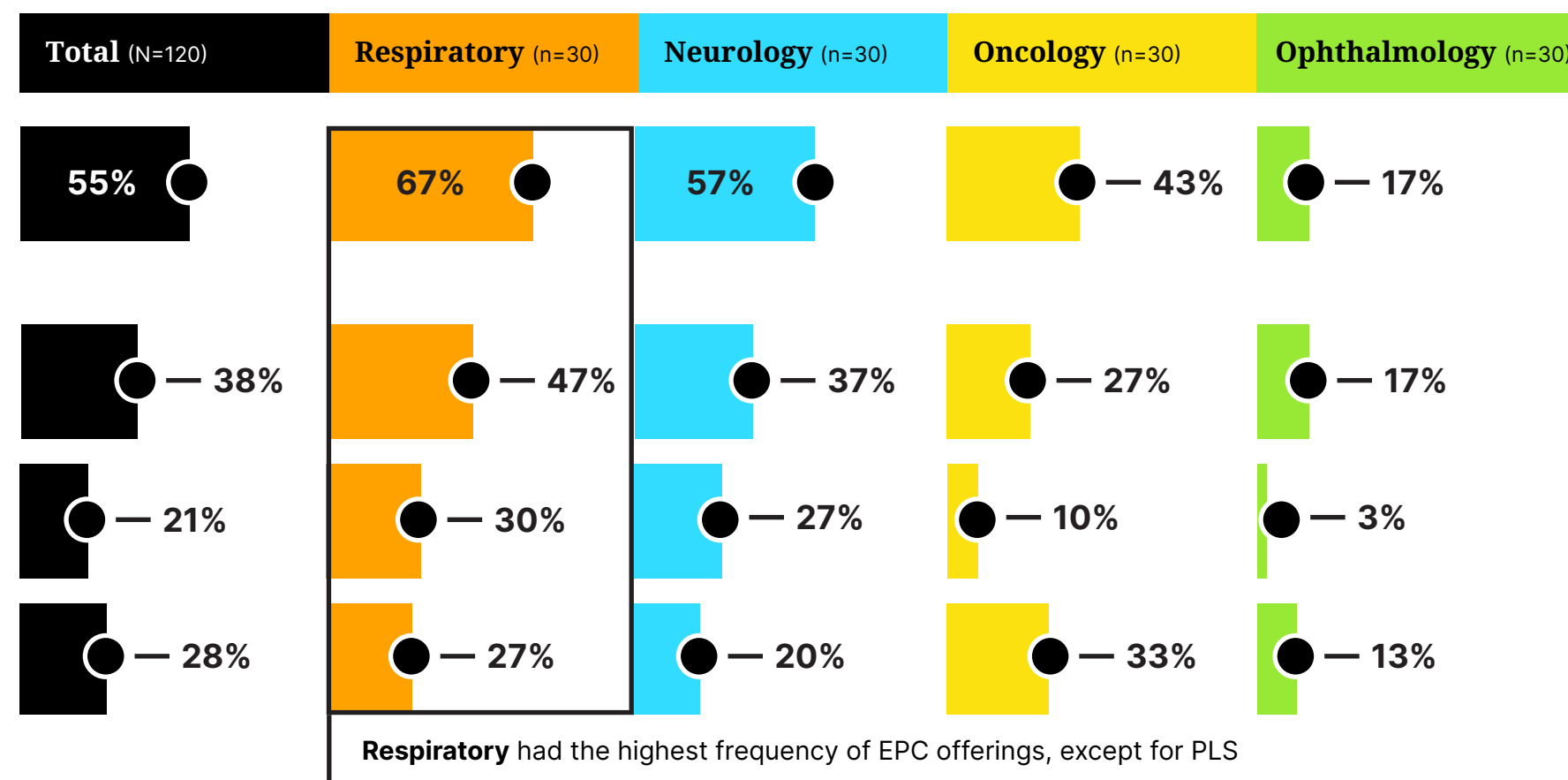
Frequency of EPC offerings by therapy area

Graphical abstracts (most frequently offered EPC)

Video abstracts

Podcasts

PLS



Consistency of EPC offerings: article search vs author guidelines

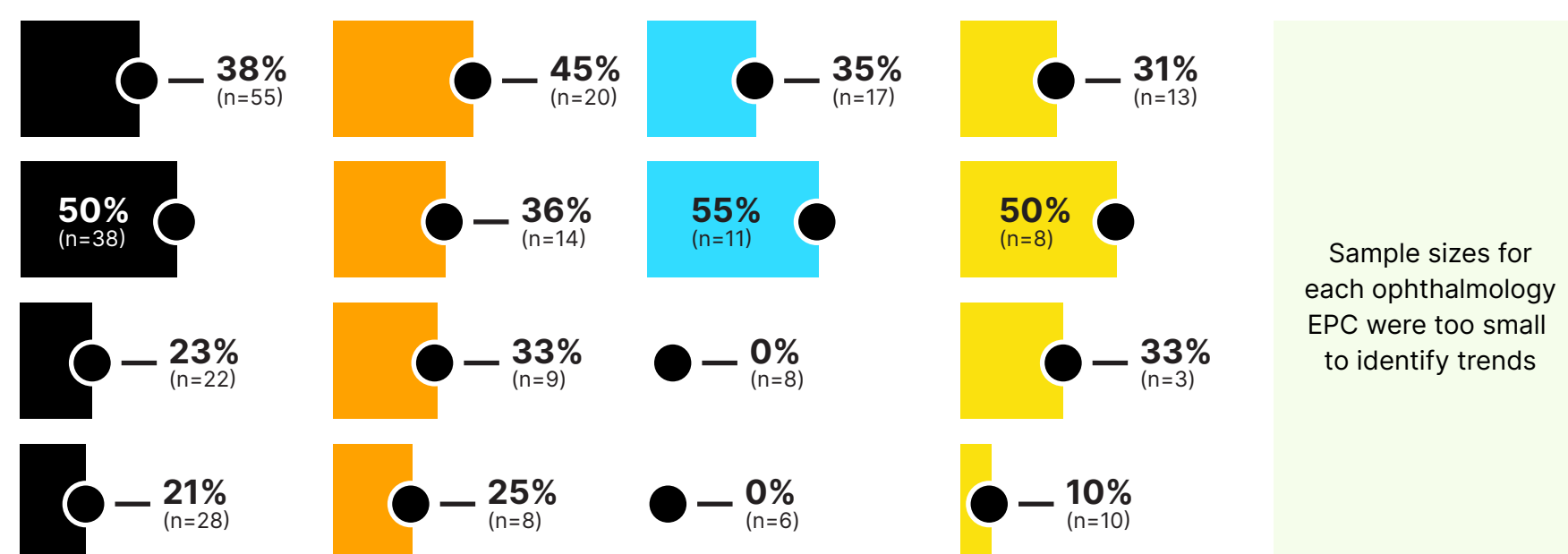
For all EPC and across all therapy areas assessed, there was a **discordance** between EPC offerings in author guidelines compared with EPCs identified within journal articles

Graphical abstracts

Video abstracts

Podcasts

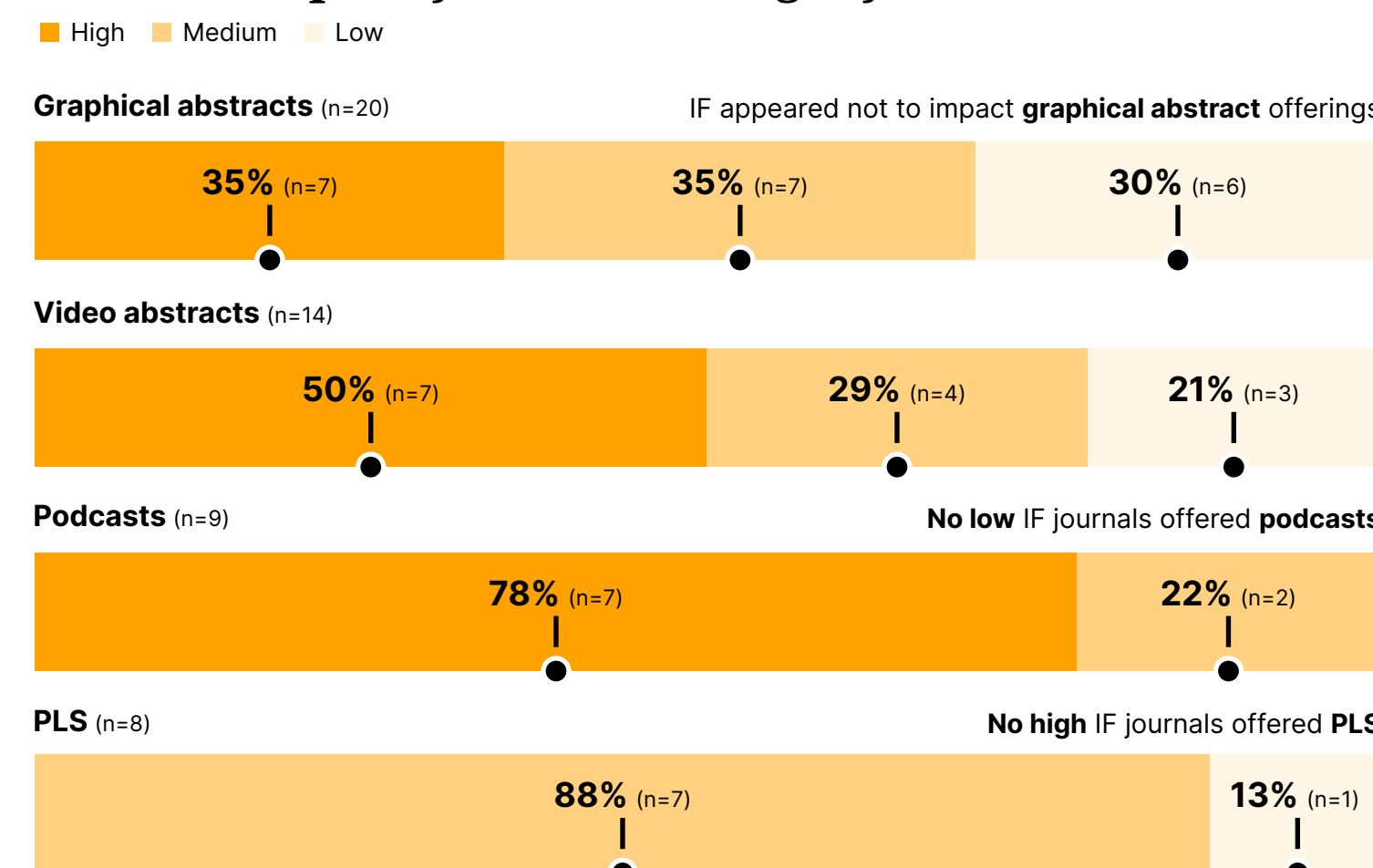
PLS



The proportion of journals including instructions for providing EPC in author guidelines was compared with the total number of journals identified as providing EPC, determined through MPIP Enhanced Publication Options Navigator, the journal's instructions for authors, and individual article searches. Therapy areas with <5 journals offering EPC were excluded from the analysis.

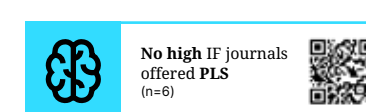
Case study: Respiratory

Relative frequency of EPC offerings by IF



Analysis excludes journals with no EPC offerings.

Scan me for more data across the other therapy areas



Location of EPC within article

Journal website External website Main article Supplement Multiple

Graphical abstracts (n=14*)

- Most were located alongside main article texts
- All were freely accessible (all articles assessed were OA)

Video abstracts (n=10*)

- Had varied locations
- All were freely accessible (5 articles assessed were OA)

Podcasts (n=9)

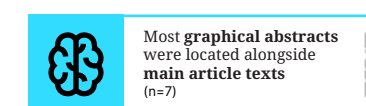
- Had varied locations
- 1 was paywalled (3 articles assessed were OA)

PLS (n=5*)

- Were located alongside main article texts
- All were freely accessible (3 articles assessed were OA)

Therapy areas with <5 journals offering EPC and journals that were OA only were excluded. *Five journals were OA only and 1 additional journal had no information relating to graphical abstract location; 12 journals were OA only and 2 additional journals had no information relating to video abstracts (for the accessibility assessment, 1 additional journal had no information); 12 journals were OA and 1 additional journal had no information relating to PLS.

Scan me for more data across the other therapy areas



References

- Hardman TC, et al. *Cardiovasc Endocrinol Metab.* 2020;9(1):30–5.
- Schuler K, et al. *Curr Med Res Opin.* 2023;39(51):S26–S27.
- DeTora LM, et al. *Ann Intern Med.* 2022;175(9):1298–1304.

Abbreviations

EPC, enhanced publication content; GPP, Good Publication Practice; IF, impact factor; MPIP, Medical Publishing Insights and Practices Initiative; OA, open access; PLS, plain language summaries.

Disclosures

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