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Who Are the Authors of Plain Language Summaries of Publications?

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Conclusions

PLSPs generally reflect the authorship of the original scientific article, with most involving the lead author and a subset of the original authors. This is consistent with the Good Publication Practice (GPP) 2022 and International Committee of Medical Journal Editor (ICMJE) guidelines for secondary publications[3,4]
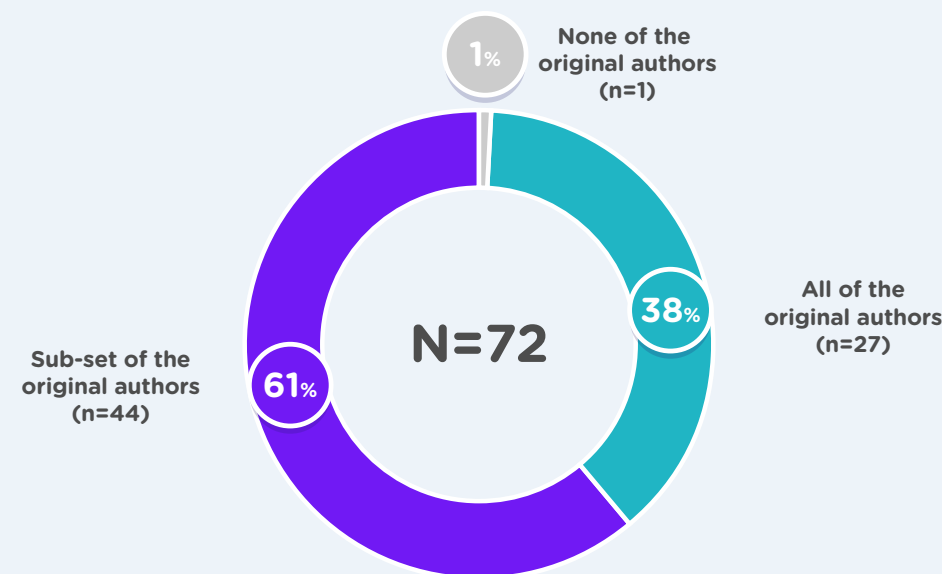
Including a patient or caregiver author or a perspectives section may increase the reach of a PLSP

Contact: Catherine Elliott, **Catherine.Elliott@envisionpharma.com**

Background and Objectives

- Plain language summaries of publications (PLSPs) are peer-reviewed, standalone articles written in nontechnical language that present information from 1 or more publications. They are intended to be read and understood by nonspecialists[1]
- Ideally, PLSPs should include at least 1 author of the original publication to ensure accurate representation of the content[1-4]
- Our objective was to understand the authorship of PLSPs. We also wanted to explore if PLSPs with additional authors had further content such as individual perspective sections
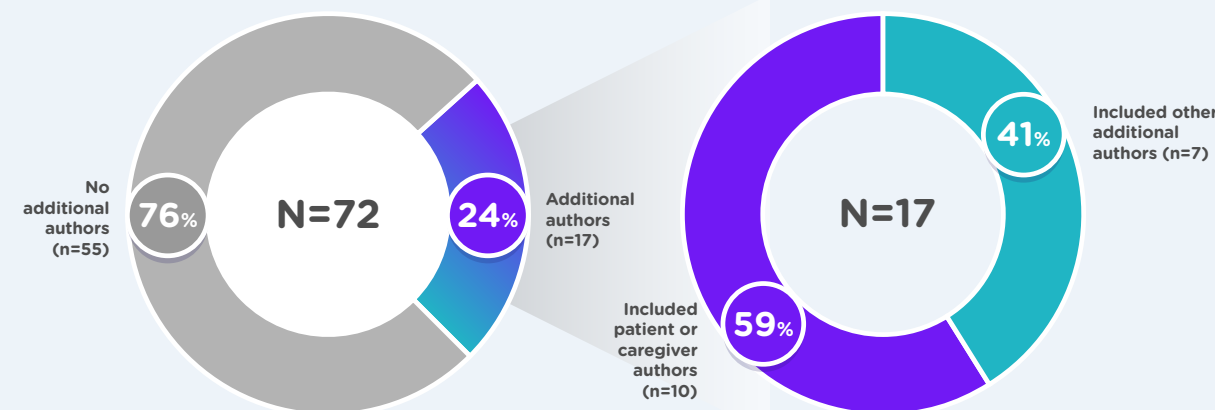
Research Design and Methods

- We compared the authorship groups of PLSPs published in Future Science Group journals between August 5, 2020 and February 28, 2023, with those of the corresponding original publications
- Our aims were to understand:
  - Do PLSPs include authors from the original publication?
  - Do PLSPs include additional authors and, if so, who are they?
  - Which therapy areas have PLSPs?
  - Do PLSPs with additional authors include added perspective sections not in the original publication?
- We also looked at the Altmetric scores and downloads of PLSPs with additional authors/perspective sections and how these compared with PLSPs without additional authors/perspective sections

Results

Do PLSPs include authors from the original publication?

None of the original authors (n=1) 1%

All of the original authors (n=27) 38%

Sub-set of the original authors (n=44) 61%

N=72

- Almost all of the PLSPs (71/72) included at least 1 author from the original publication(s)
- Most of the PLSPs (66/72) included a lead author from the original publication

Do PLSPs include additional authors and, if so, who are they?

No additional authors (n=55) 76%

Additional authors (n=17) 24%

N=72

N=17

Included other additional authors (n=7) 41%

Included patient or caregiver authors (n=10) 59%

- About a quarter of PLSPs (17/72) included additional authors compared with the original publications—the majority were patients or caregivers
- Other additional authors included patient advocacy group representatives, nurse practitioners, science communicators, pharmaceutical industry employees, physicians, and clinical research staff

Which therapy areas have PLSPs?

- Between August 5, 2020 and February 28, 2023, Future Science Group has published 72 PLSPs spanning a wide range of therapy areas
  - The majority of PLSPs focus on cancer (n=27), brain and nerves (n=14), rare diseases (n=11), and infections (n=11)

Do PLSPs with additional authors include added perspective sections not in the original publication?

- Six of the 17 PLSPs with additional authors included a patient or caregiver perspective section
  - Two of these PLSPs also included other additional perspectives; one included a nursing perspective section, and the other a patient advocate perspective section

What were the Altmetric scores and downloads of PLSPs with vs without additional authors or perspectives?

- On average, PLSPs with patient or caregiver authors (n=10) had a higher Altmetric score and downloads than those without patient or caregiver authors (n=62)

PLSPs with patient or caregiver authors (n=10)
30.30 Mean Altmetric score
2820 Mean downloads

PLSPs without patient or caregiver authors (n=62)
9.05 Mean Altmetric score
1867 Mean downloads

- On average, PLSPs with an added patient or caregiver perspective section (n=6) had a higher Altmetric score and downloads than those without an added perspective section (n=66)

PLSPs with patient or caregiver perspectives (n=6)
41.83 Mean Altmetric score
3156 Mean downloads

PLSPs without patient or caregiver perspectives (n=66)
9.31 Mean Altmetric score
1894 Mean downloads

References

1. https://www.plainlanguagesummaries.com/. Accessed March 10, 2023. 2. Lobban D, Gardner J, Matheis R. *Curr Med Res Opin.* 2022;38:189-200. 3. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Recommendations: overlapping publications. https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/publishing-and-editorial-issues/overlapping-publications.html. Accessed March 22, 2023. 4. DeTora LM, Toroser D, Sykes A, et al. *Ann Intern Med.* 2022;175:1298-1304.
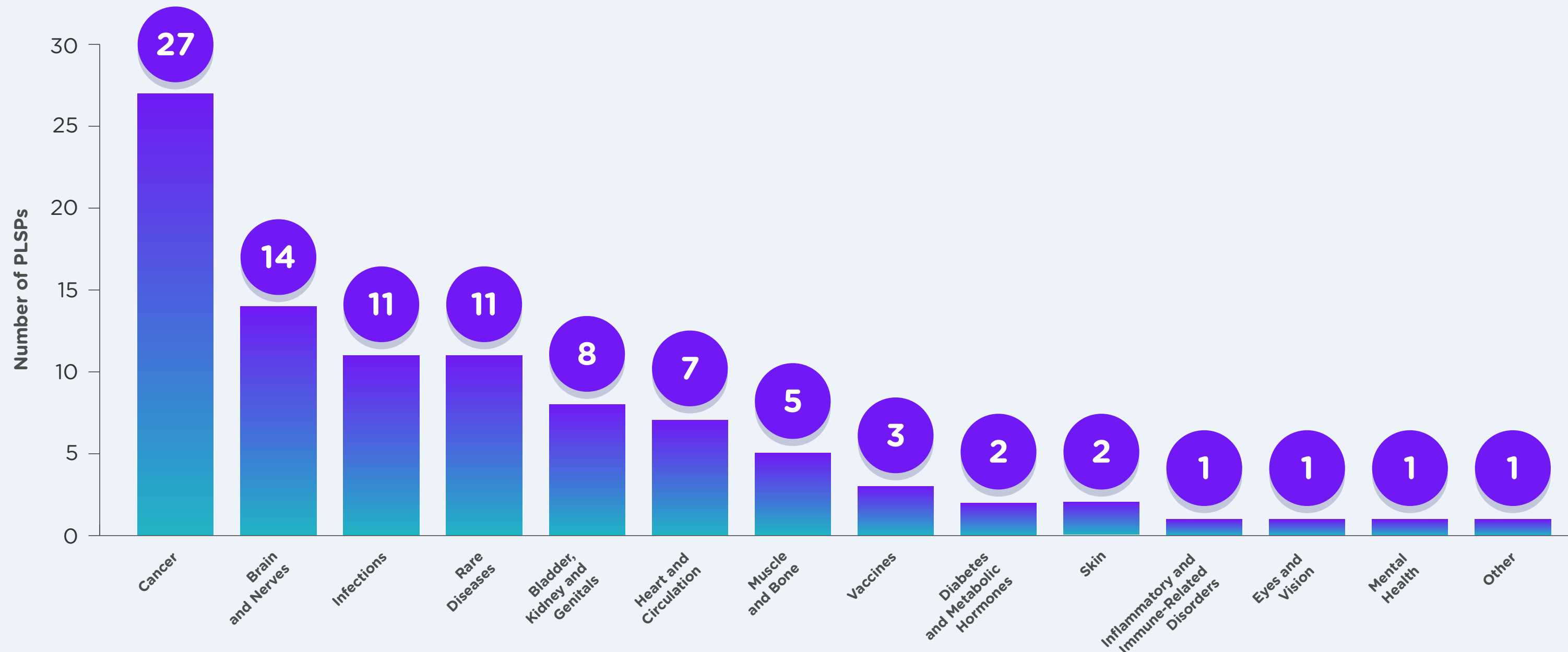
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  - Do PLSPs with additional authors include added perspective sections not in the original publication?

Which therapy areas have PLSPs?

Bar chart — Number of PLSPs by therapy area:
- Cancer: 27
- Brain and Nerves: 14
- Infections: 11
- Rare Diseases: 11
- Bladder, Kidney and Genitals: 8
- Heart and Circulation: 7
- Muscle and Bone: 5
- Vaccines: 3
- Diabetes and Metabolic Hormones: 2
- Skin: 2
- Inflammatory and Immune-Related Disorders: 1
- Eyes and Vision: 1
- Mental Health: 1
- Other: 1

Some PLSP are in >1 category. Total number of PLSPs is 72.

Conclus...

with the Good Publication Practice (GPP) 2022 and International Committee of Medical Journal Editor (ICMJE) guidelines for secondary publications[3,4]

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- About a quarter of PLSPs (17/72) include additional authors compared with the original publications – the majority are patients or caregivers
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Additional Information >

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Mean Altmetric score

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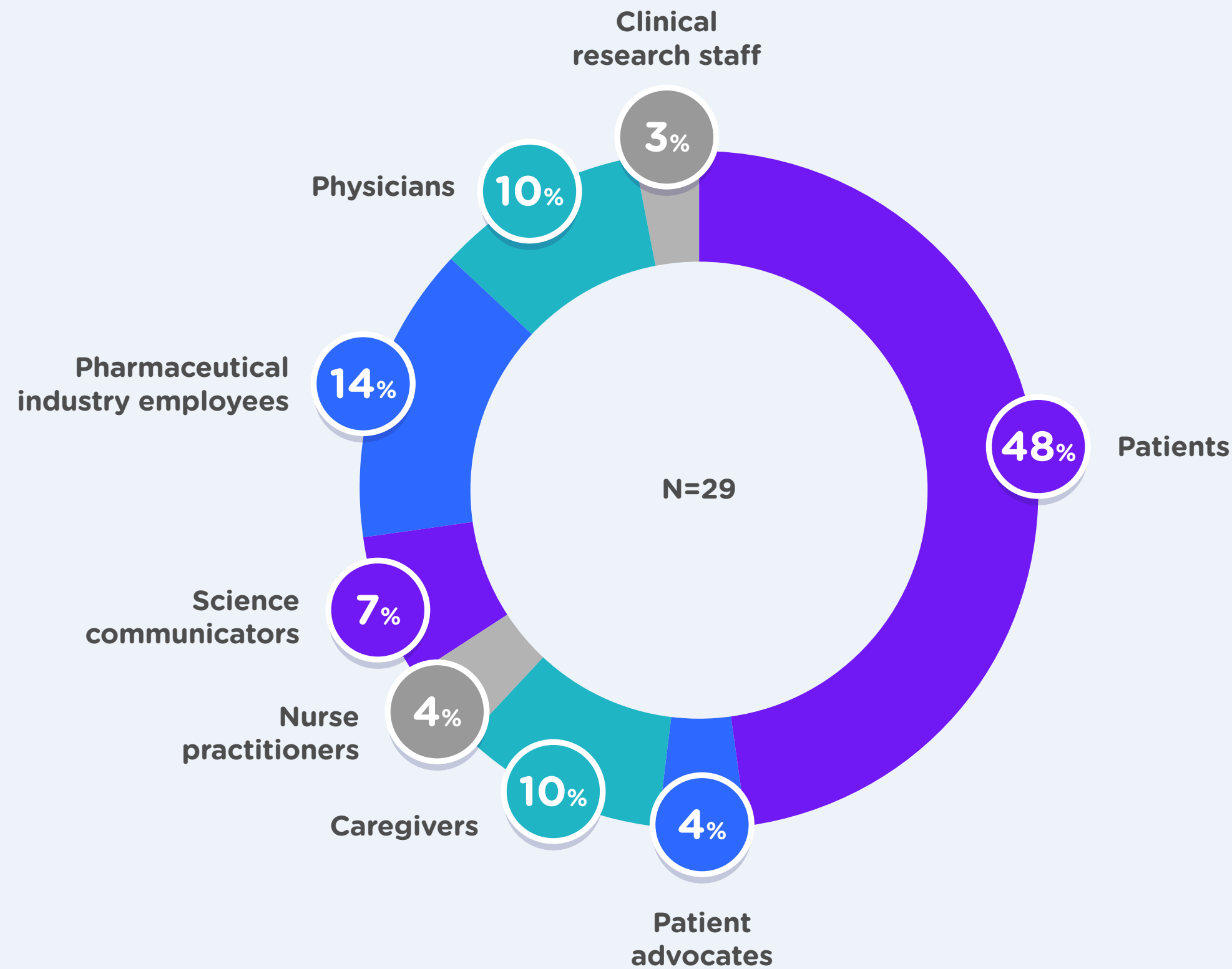Driven by evidence, enabled by technology

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Over 60% (18/29) of additional authors of PLSPs were patients, caregivers, or patient advocates

Clinical research staff — 3%

Physicians — 10%

Pharmaceutical industry employees — 14%

Patients — 48%

N=29

Science communicators — 7%

Nurse practitioners — 4%

Caregivers — 10%

Patient advocates — 4%

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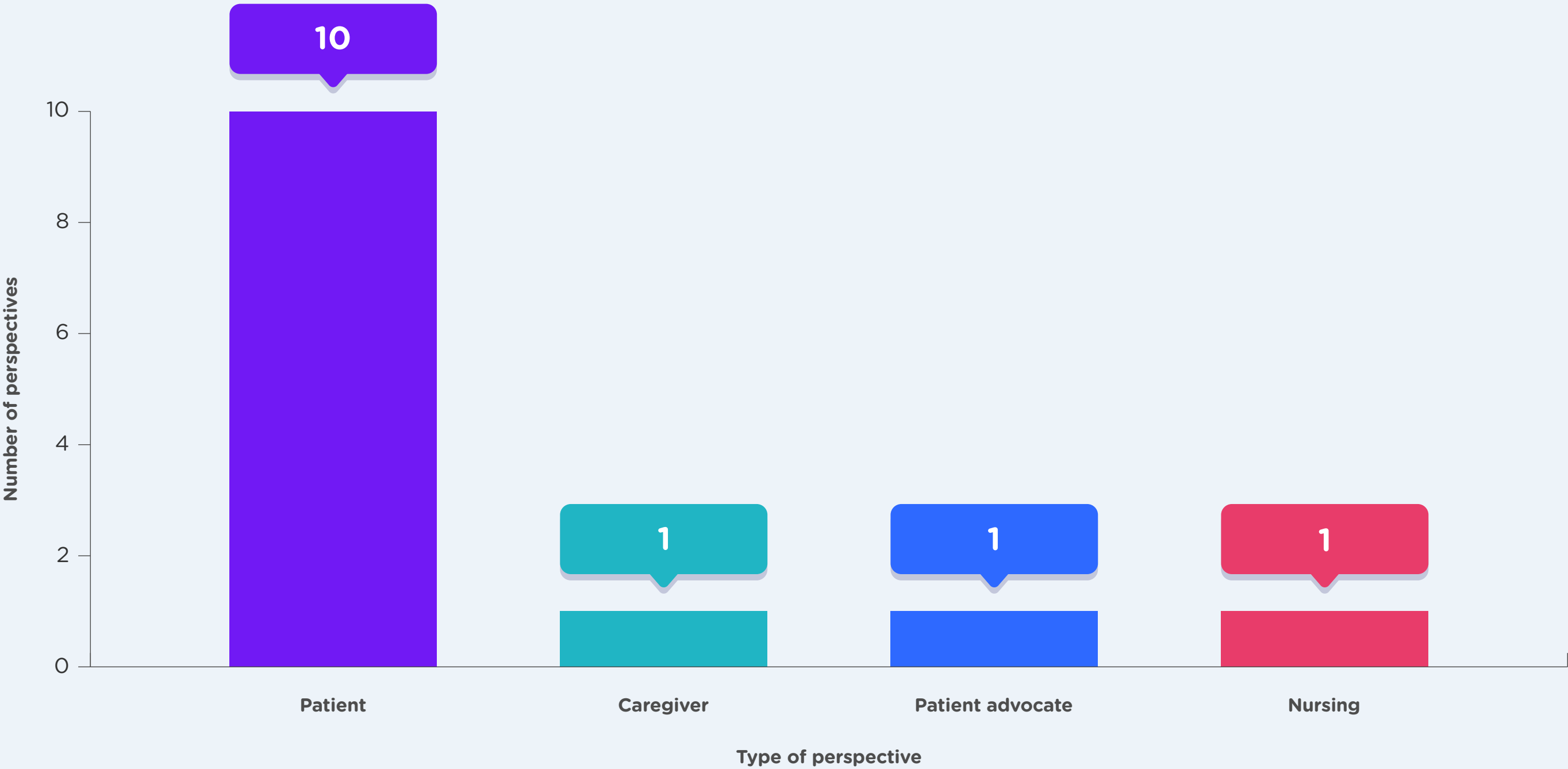
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PLSPs included a range of perspective sections, with the majority being patient perspectives

Some PLSPs included >1 perspective section. Total number of PLSPs with an additional perspective section is 6.

References

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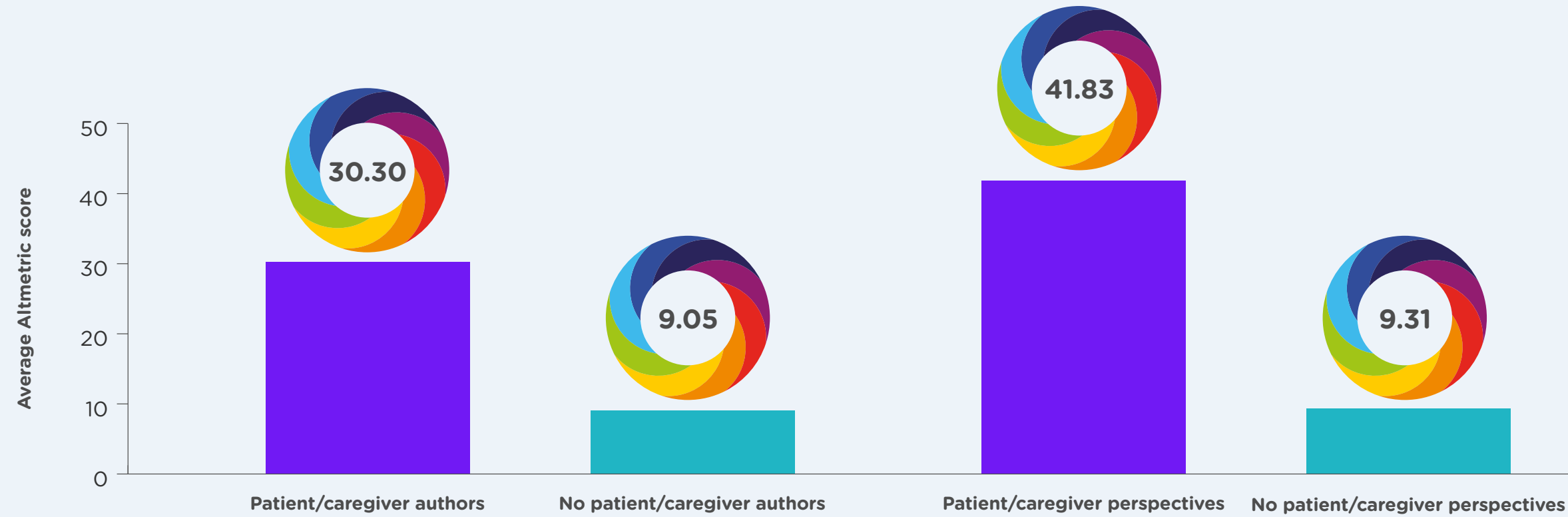[b]University of Manchester, Manchester, ...
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Conclusions

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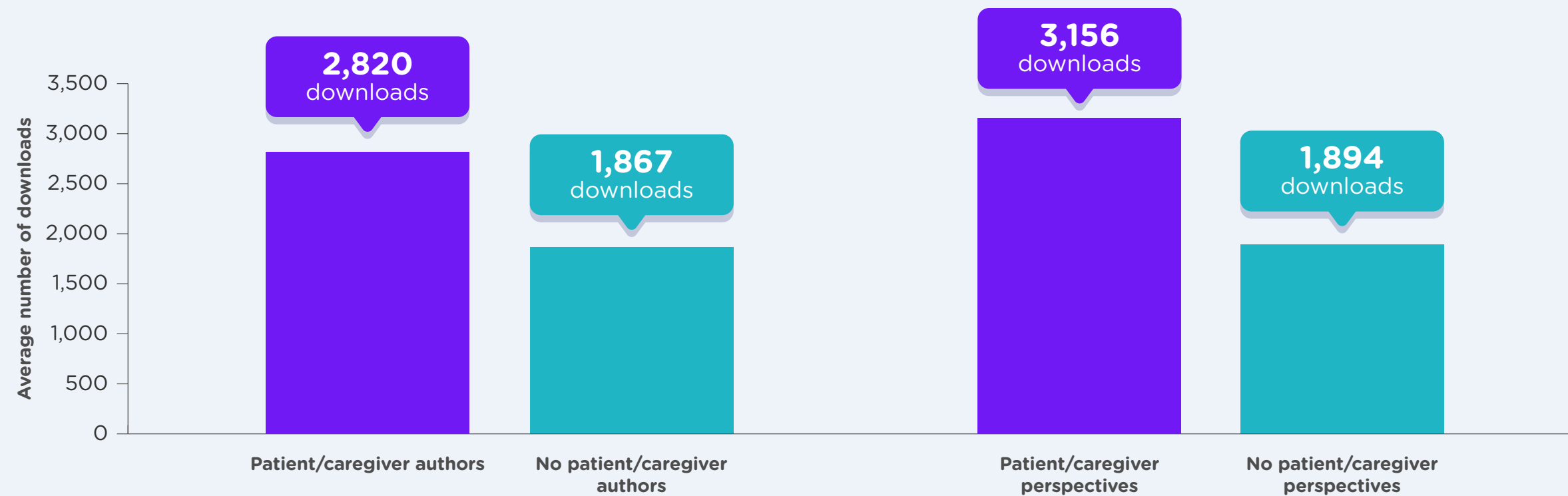guidelines for seco...

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PLSPs with patient/caregiver authors and perspective sections had higher average Altmetric scores compared with PLSPs without patient/caregiver authors and perspectives sections

Data cutoff date: February 28, 2023.

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