

EFLUELDA BRAND TRACKER

WAVE 2 (POST-LAUNCH)

Report



May 2023

sanofi

1. BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4. KEY FINDINGS

1. Only 1 out of 4 GPs recognizes the need to prescribe a high dose influenza vaccine to elderly patients
2. Familiarity with Efluelda as brand increased, yet remains limited
3. GPs are mainly communicating about influenza vaccination verbally

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

6. SUPPORTIVE DATA

7. APPENDIX

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES



BACKGROUND

To protect patients against influenza, prevention with **standard dose vaccines** are considered the **standard of care**. However, **Sanofi** received **reimbursement** for **Efluelda** in **Q3 2021** and **launched** this **high dose (HD) influenza vaccine Efluelda** in Belgium in **Q3 2022**, right **before the flu season**, especially focusing on protecting patients of **60 years and older**.

In preparation for this launch, a **baseline** market research was conducted in **April 2022** with assistance of Ipsos Belgium identifying key insights on **perception of HD Influenza vaccines** and the **willingness to pay** for higher protection, among both GPs and elderly. A **low awareness** of the Efluelda vaccine was revealed with a **higher price** possibly being one of the prescription **barriers** (especially amongst Dutch speaking GPs). However, GPs indicated that the current vaccination coverage **rates for influenza are unsatisfactory** and that there is a **clear need to increase protection** against influenza in the elderly population.



BUSINESS OBJECTIVE

Define the **success of the launch** of **Efluelda** to define **opportunities** to enhance **communication** and **preparation** for the next flu season.



RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Through quantitative research, Ipsos will assist in defying:

- Awareness and familiarity of the Efluelda brand
- Perception of the Efluelda brand
- Willingness to recommend and prescribe Efluelda
- Attitudes towards vaccination needs in general
- The possibility of price being a barrier

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION



General Practitioners

- With at least 1 year of experience
- Treating at least 100 patients per month, of which at least 35% patients ≥ 60 y.o.
- Involved in recommendation & administration of vaccines to elderly

SAMPLE SIZE



N = 101

QUOTA



- Language: 50% Dutch vs 50% French

DATA COLLECTION METHOD



CAWI

AVG. INTERVIEW DURATION



15 minutes

FIELDWORK PERIOD



27/03/2023 – 30/04/2023

EVOLUTION



WAVE 1 – Q2 2022

Sample	N=100 Belgian GPs
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Fieldwork period	25/02/2022 – 27/03/2022
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Quota	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Language
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Screening criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ With at least 1 year of experience■ Treating at least 100 patients per month, of which at least 35% patients ≥ 60 y.o.■ Involved in recommendation of vaccines to elderly
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HOW TO READ THE RESULTS

All reported results are **percentages (%)**, unless indicated otherwise.

- Number of specialists is indicated with n=x

Low base sizes, i.e. $n < 10$, are indicated with an asterisk (*).

Where relevant **average and median** have been reported.

Average is the sum of a set of numbers divided by how many numbers there are.


Median is the number separating the higher half of a data sample from the lower half.

For instance assume the data sequence: 1 2 3

Average = $(1+2+3)/3=2$

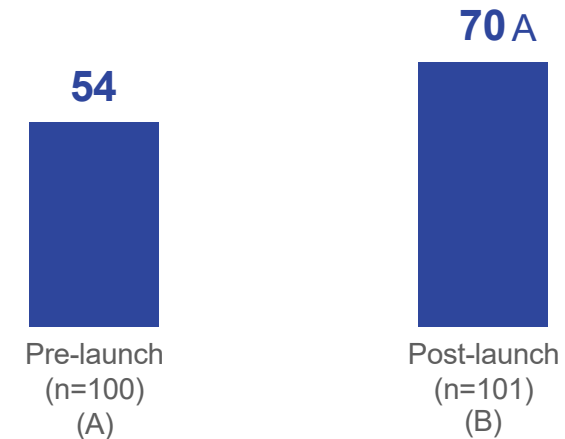
Median = 2

Differences between subgroups are reported when relevant:

- Dutch vs. French speaking:
 - Indicated in report as 'North' and 'South'
 - Shown via following icons: 

Significant differences are always tested for at the 95% confidence level.

- Significant differences between groups are marked via A, B, ...
 - Differences are always indicated with the **highest %** of the comparison.
 - E.g. the indication A with South denotes a significant difference between 70% (B) and 54% (A)



***Low base size!**

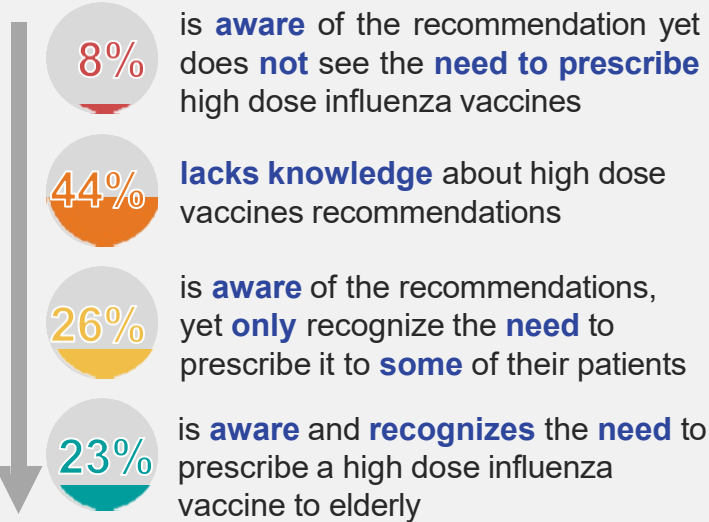


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ONLY 1 OUT OF 4 GPs RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO PRESCRIBE A HIGH DOSE INFLUENZA VACCINE TO ELDERLY PATIENTS

GPs are **aware** of the gradual **decline** of the **immune system function** of the **elderly**. There is a further **growing believe** in the **necessity for enhanced protection against influenza**, with an increasing number of GPs **recognizing** the **potential benefits** of a **vaccine** capable of eliciting a **stronger immune response** in the elderly. However:



FAMILIARITY WITH EFLUELDA AS BRAND INCREASED, YET REMAINS LIMITED

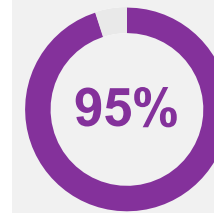


Still **half of GPs** is **not aware** of the **Efluelda** vaccine.

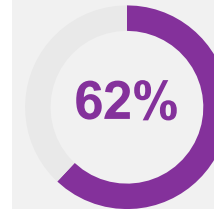
However, Efluelda is **avored** by 1 out of 5 for **elderly** patients aged 60 years and above and by nearly 1 out of 3 GPs specifically for patients aged 65 years older, which is still **behind competitive brands**. Furthermore, **half** of GPs would **recommend** this vaccine **to colleagues** for usage in the elderly population.

Although Efluelda has **not yet established a strong brand image**, and is outperformed by competitors, the vaccine is already **strongly associated among prescribers** with being **specifically developed for the elderly** and having a **higher dosage of antigen**.

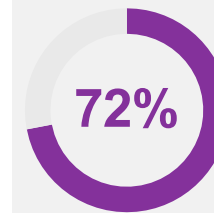
GPs ARE MAINLY COMMUNICATING ABOUT INFLUENZA VACCINATION VERBALLY



of GPs **engage in verbal communication** about influenza vaccines during consultations. **Posters** in the practice or waiting room to convey information will be important in the future as well.



of GPs plan to share information about influenza vaccines between **mid-September and mid-October**.



of GPs anticipate receiving **information from pharmaceutical companies to aid in raising awareness** and obtaining additional details about the vaccine.

KEY FINDINGS

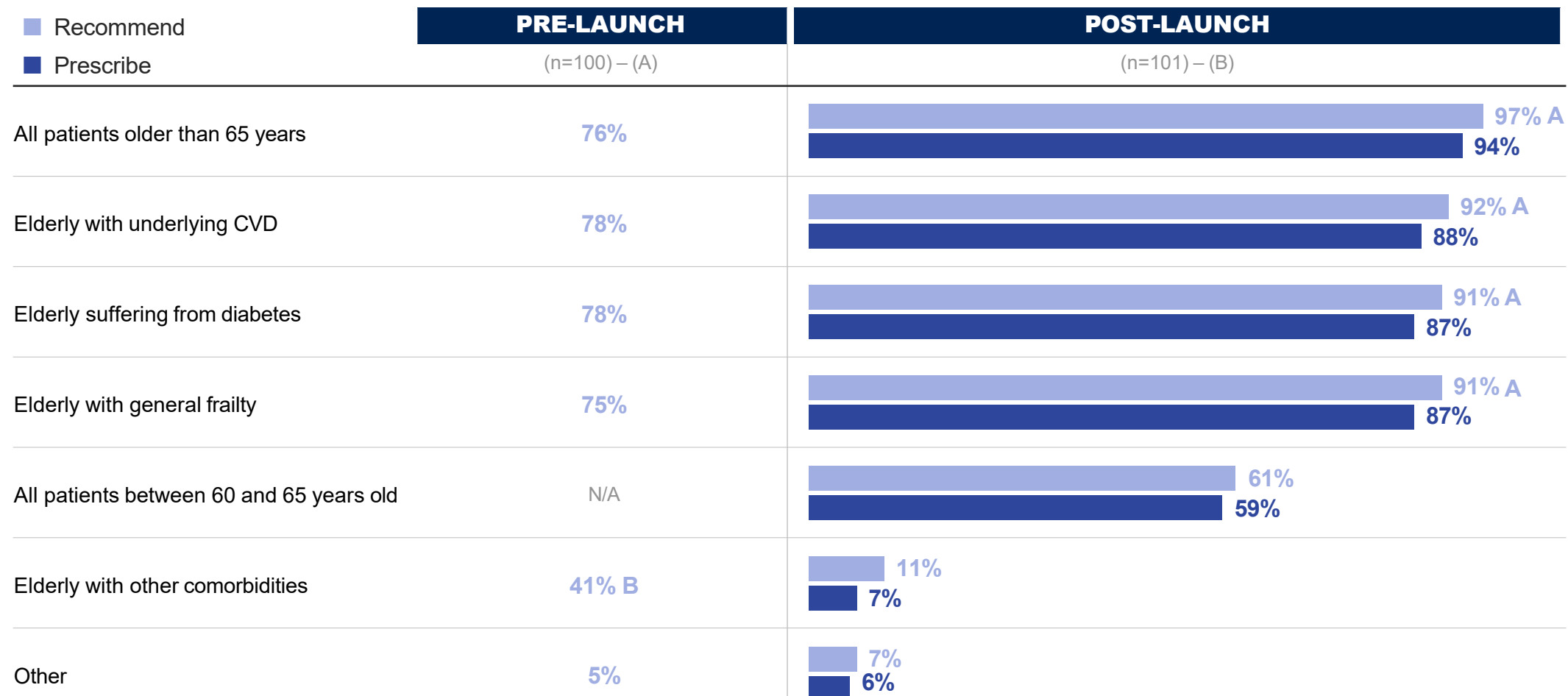
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**ONLY 1 OUT OF 4 GPs
RECOGNIZES THE
NEED TO PRESCRIBE A
HIGH DOSE INFLUENZA
VACCINE TO ELDERLY
PATIENTS**

4. KEY FINDINGS

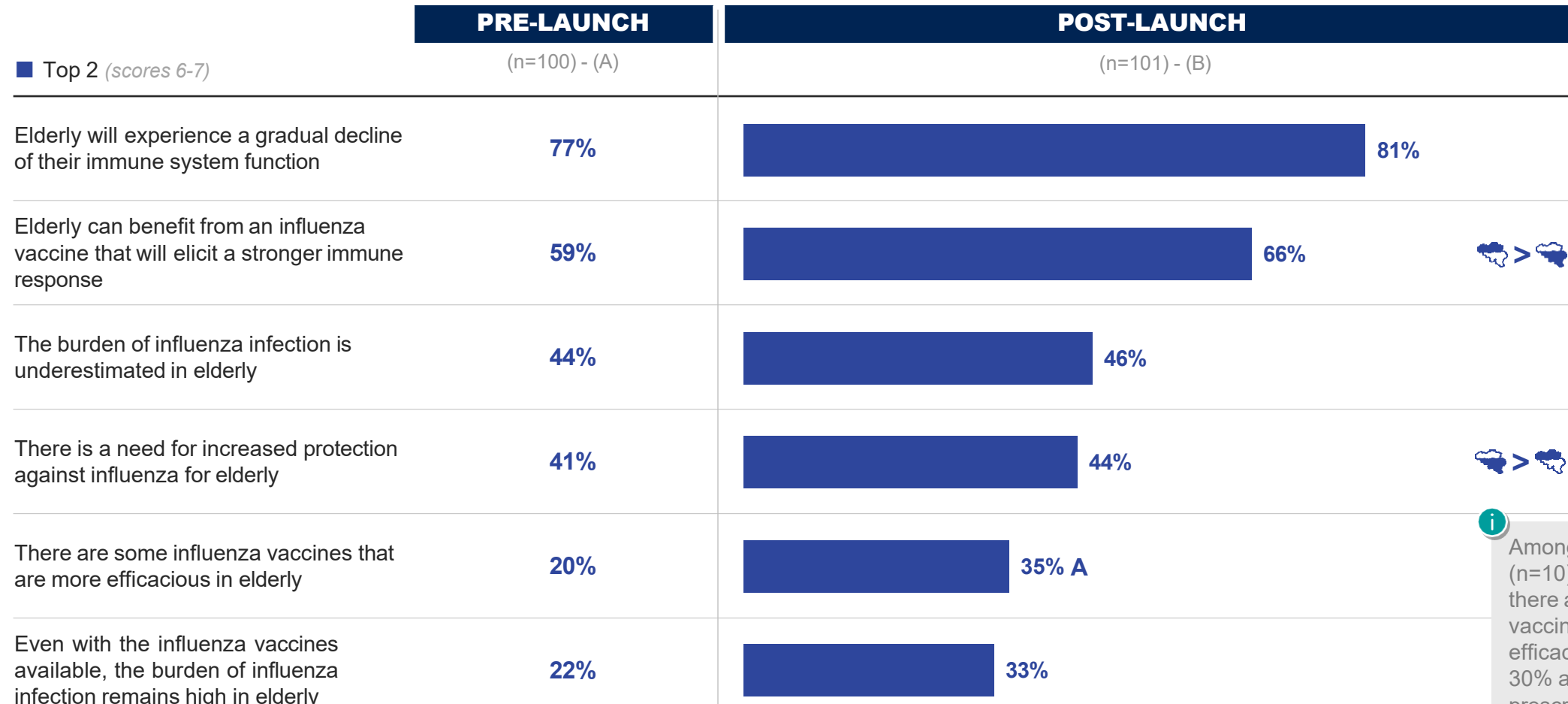
In general, more GPs recommend influenza vaccines to their elderly patients compared to last wave with almost all GPs recommending/prescribing an influenza vaccine to patients aged 65 years and above, as indicated by the guidelines. Only 6 out of 10 recommends patients 60-65 y.o. to get vaccinated against influenza.

INTENT OF RECOMMENDATION & PRESCRIPTION OF INFLUENZA VACCINATION



Most GPs recognize elderly experience a gradual decline in their immune system and could benefit from a vaccine that will elicit a stronger immune response.

PERCEPTION ON THE BURDEN OF INFLUENZA INFECTION



Among Efluelda prescribers (n=10), 80% do believe that there are some influenza vaccines that are more efficacious in elderly (versus 30% among non-Efluelda prescribers).

Two third of GPs prefers to have the option to select from various vaccines that are tailored for different patient types. However, over half of the GPs believe that this scenario will not have an impact on vaccine coverage rates.

PERCEPTION ON DIFFERENT INFLUENZA VACCINES

PREFERENCE FOR DIFFERENT INFLUENZA VACCINE

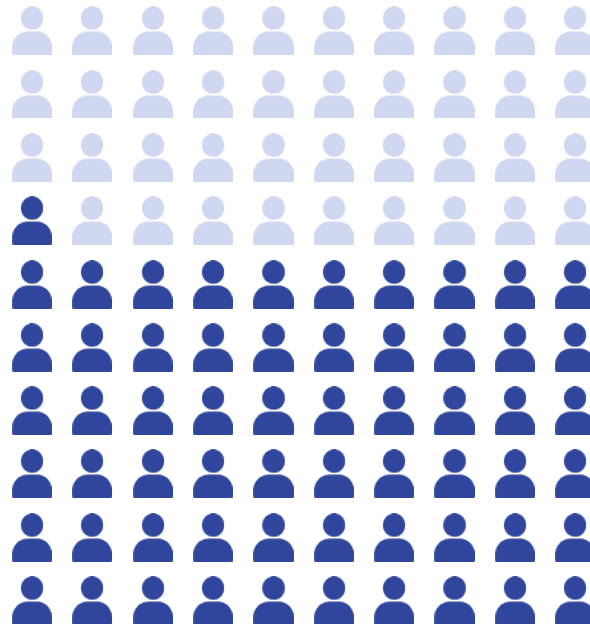
61%

(Somewhat / strongly) prefers:

- Having a **choice** between **more than 1 type** of influenza **vaccine**
- Which are tailored to **diverse patient types** to offer best possible efficacy according to **patient profile**



In previous wave, 73% of GPs preferred this scenario as well versus one type of influenza vaccine for all patients with a different efficacy between patients.



IMPACT ON INFLUENZA COVERAGE RATES IN BELGIUM



A differentiated approach, using different types of vaccines tailored to different patient types:

■ would **increase** vaccine coverage rates

(Score 6 – 7)



■ would have **no impact** on vaccine coverage rates

(Score 3 – 5)

■ would **reduce** vaccine coverage rates

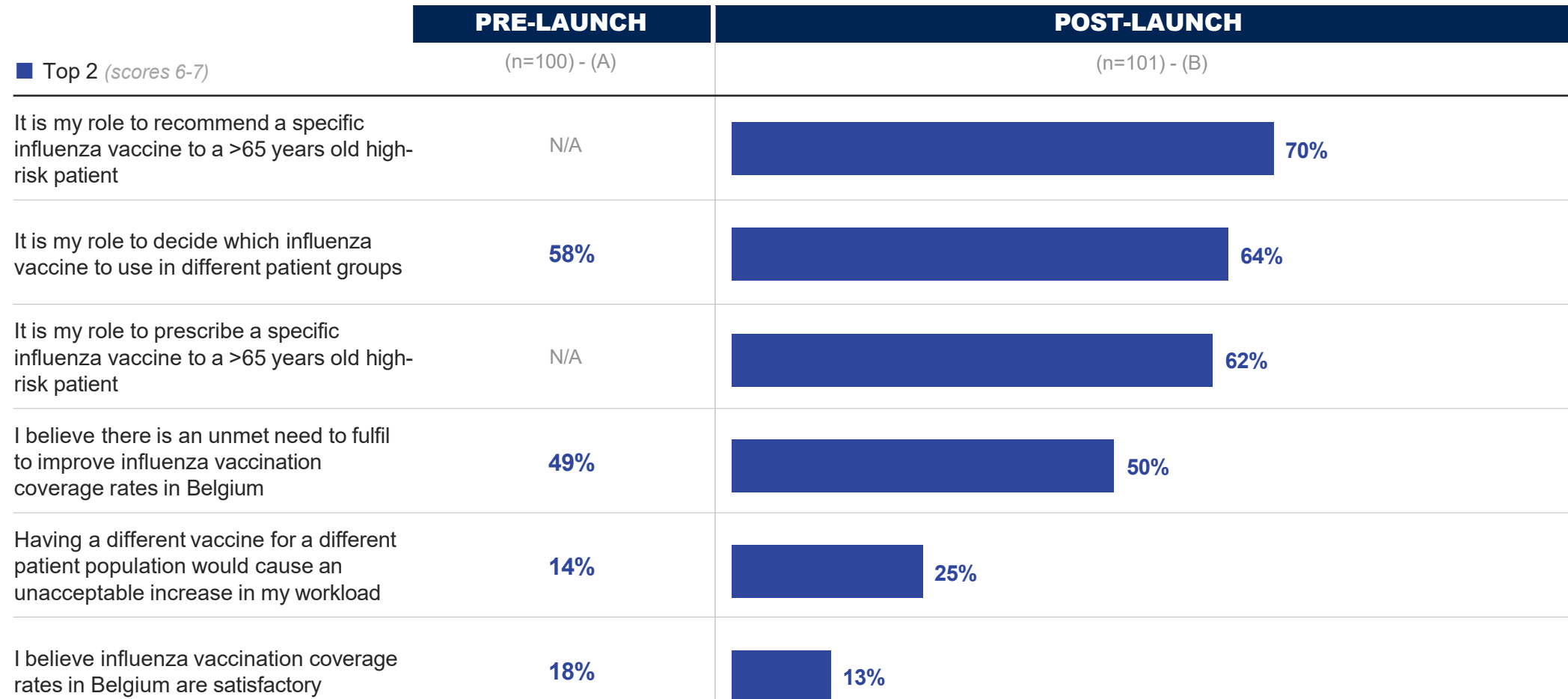
(Score 1 – 2)



In previous wave, 37% of GPs believed having a differentiated approach, using different types of vaccines tailored to different patient types, would increase vaccine coverage rate, while 6% of the GPs believed this would reduce vaccine coverage rates.

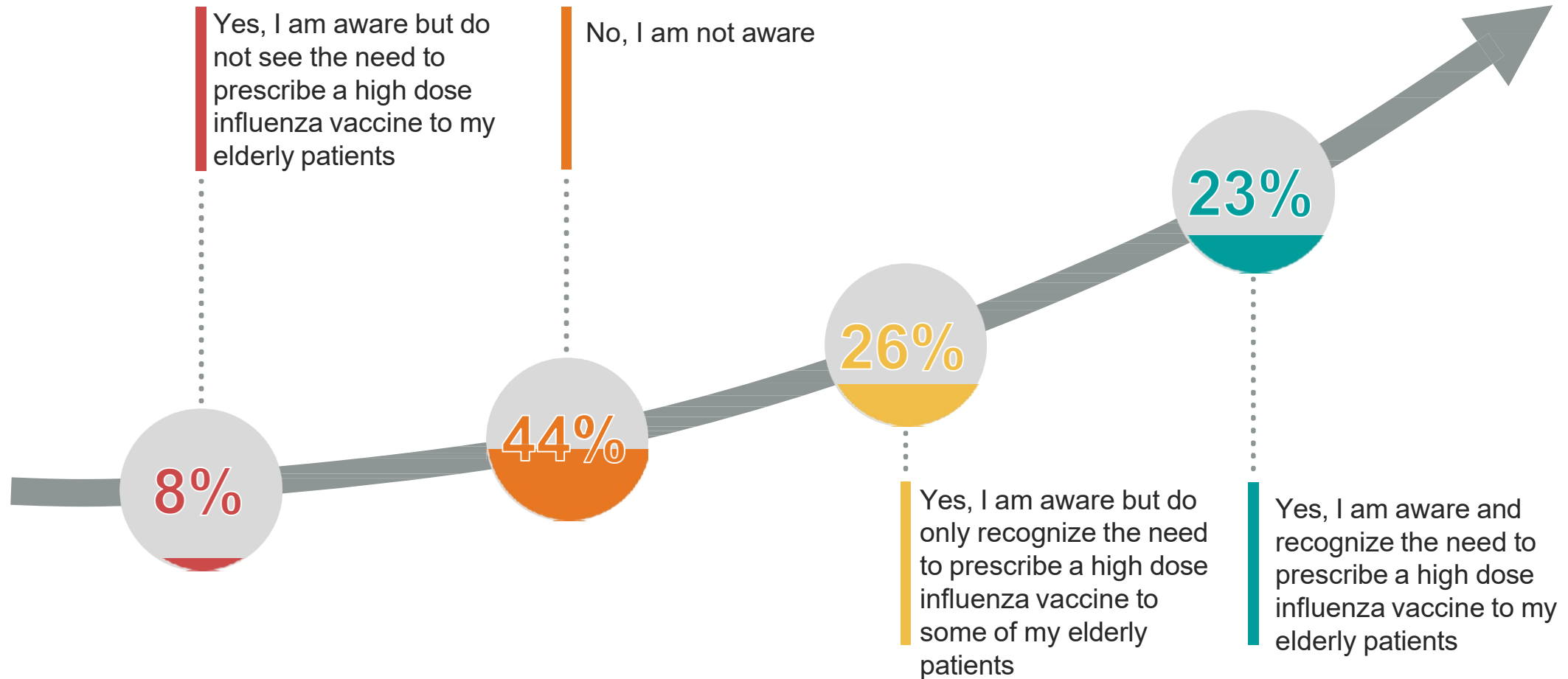
GPs do believe it is their role to recommend, decide and prescribe a specific influenza vaccine to their (elderly) patients.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS A DIFFERENTIATED APPROACH AND VACCINATION COVARAGE RATES



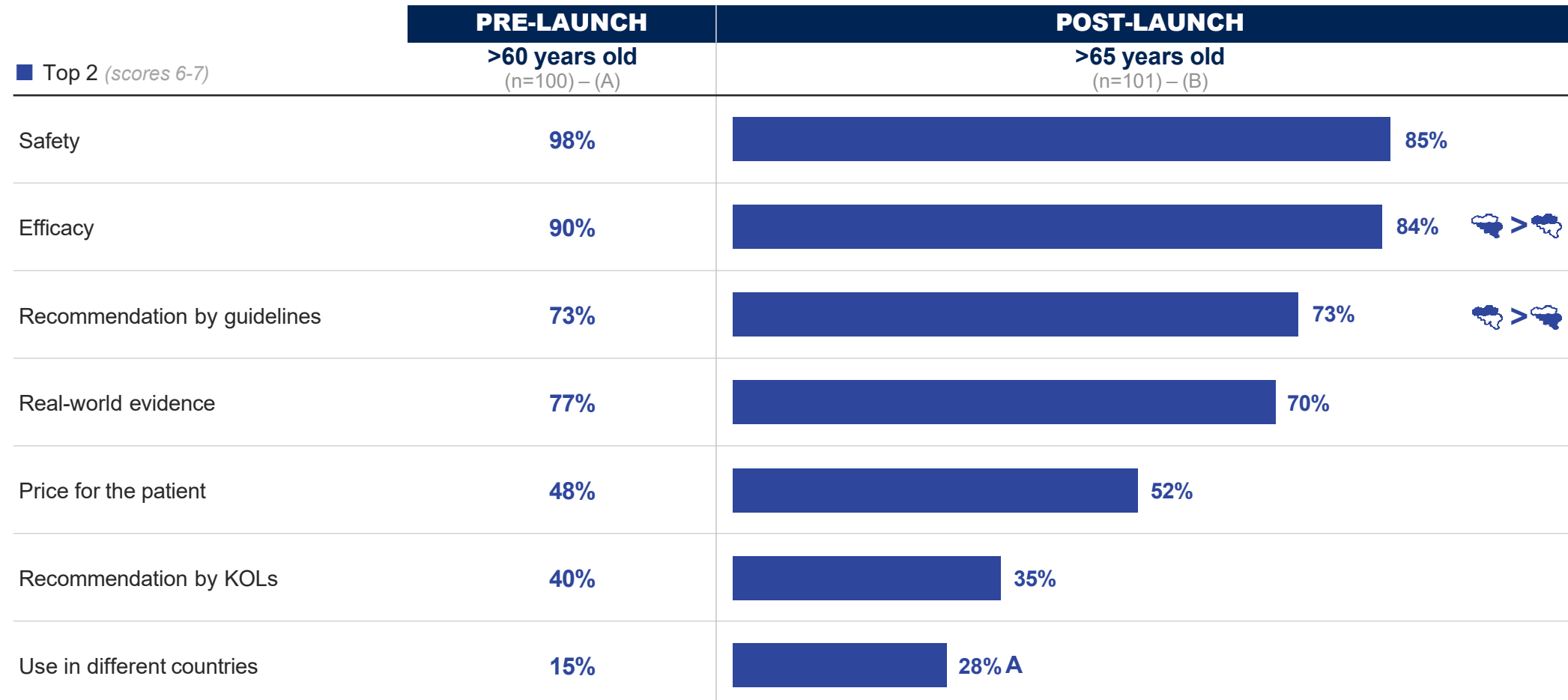
Only half of GPs is aware of the recommendation of a high dose influenza vaccine for elderly, and only 1 out of 4 recognizes the need to prescribing it to their elderly patients.

AWARENESS OVERALL HIGH DOSE INFLUENZA VACCINES RECOMMENDED FOR ELDERLY



Safety and efficacy remain the main drivers to prescribe or administer a new influenza vaccine with improved efficacy.

DRIVERS TO PRESCRIBE / ADMINISTER A NEW INFLUENZA VACCINE WITH IMPROVED EFFICACY

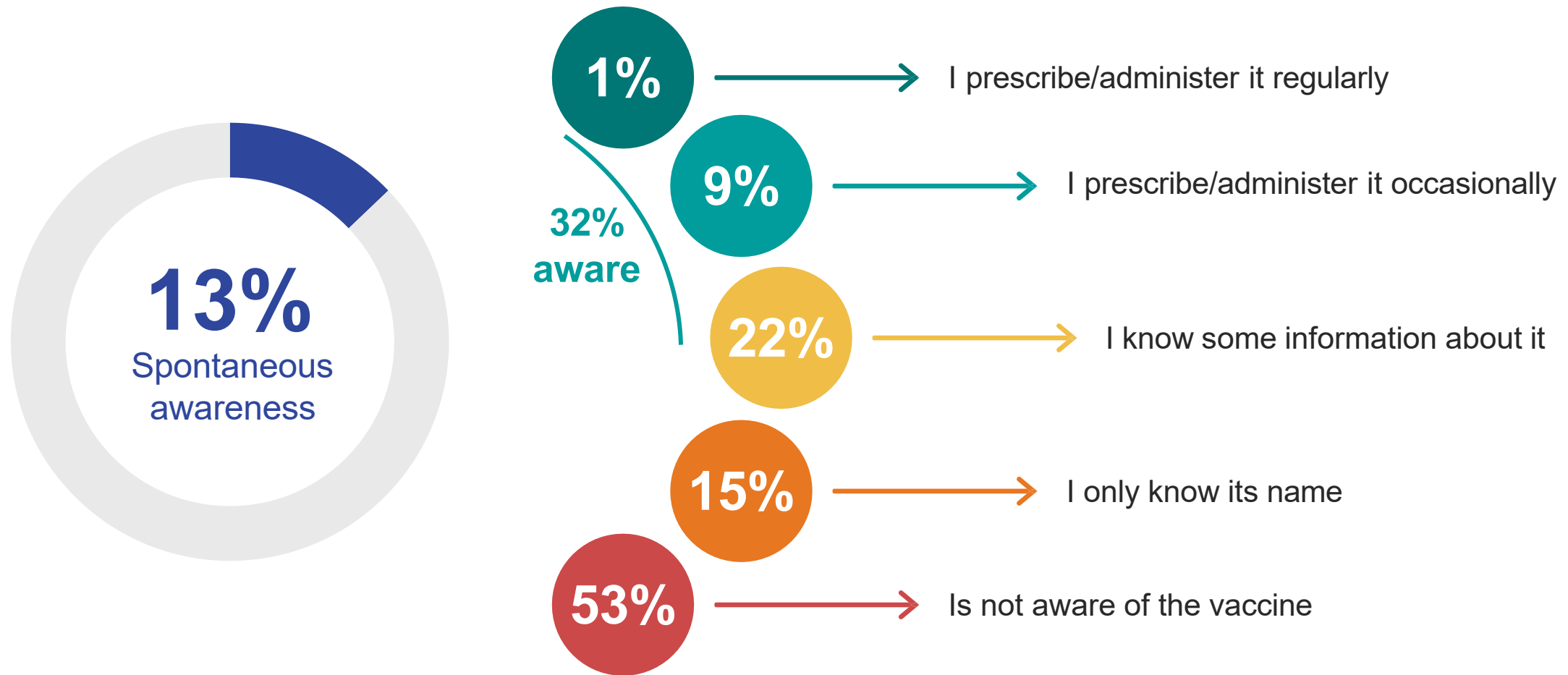


FAMILIARITY WITH EFLUELDA AS BRAND INCREASED, YET REMAINS LIMITED

4. KEY FINDINGS

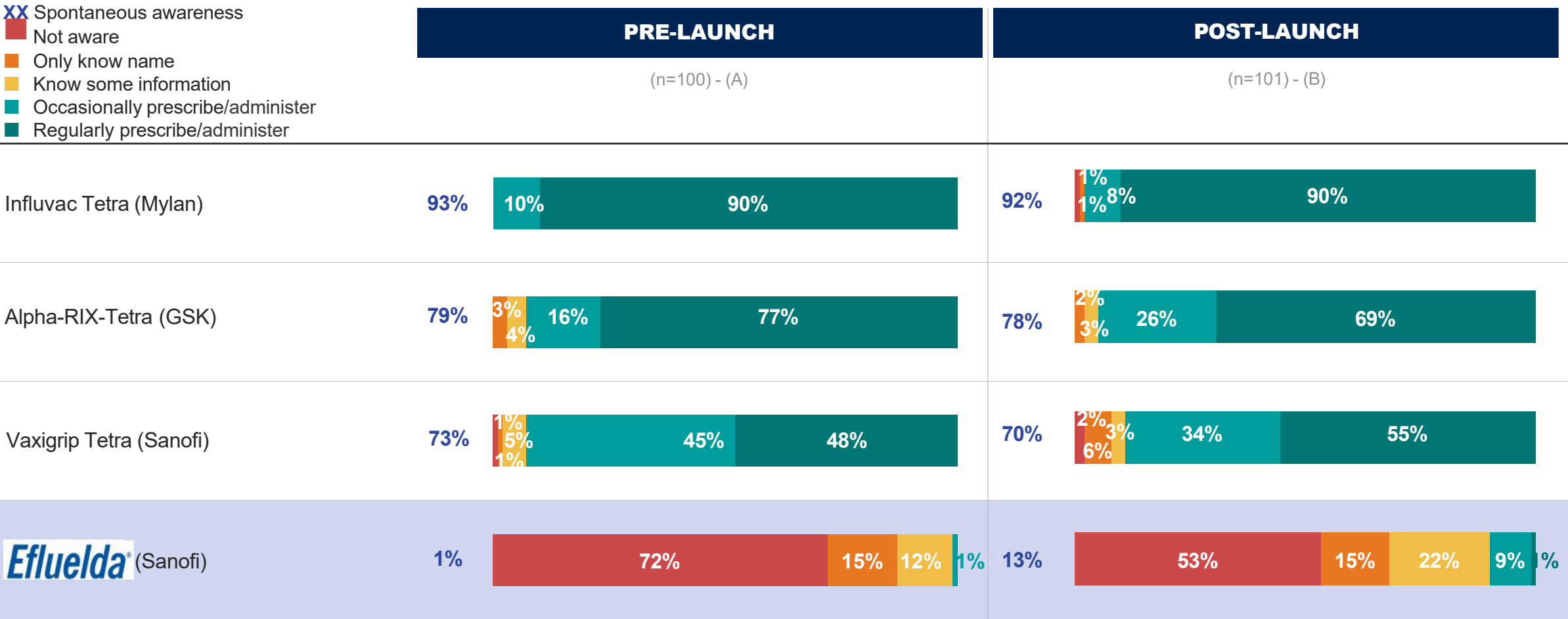
Only 13% of GPs spontaneously mentioned Efluelda when thinking of influenza vaccines. One third indicated having at least some information about the vaccine. Nevertheless, approximately half of the GPs remain unaware of this high dose vaccine.

AWARENESS AND FAMILIARITY OF THE EFLUELDA VACCINE



Despite the slight improved awareness of Efluelda among GPs, the vaccine is still far behind more established brands in the market with Influvac maintaining a solid position as most regularly prescribed influenza vaccine.

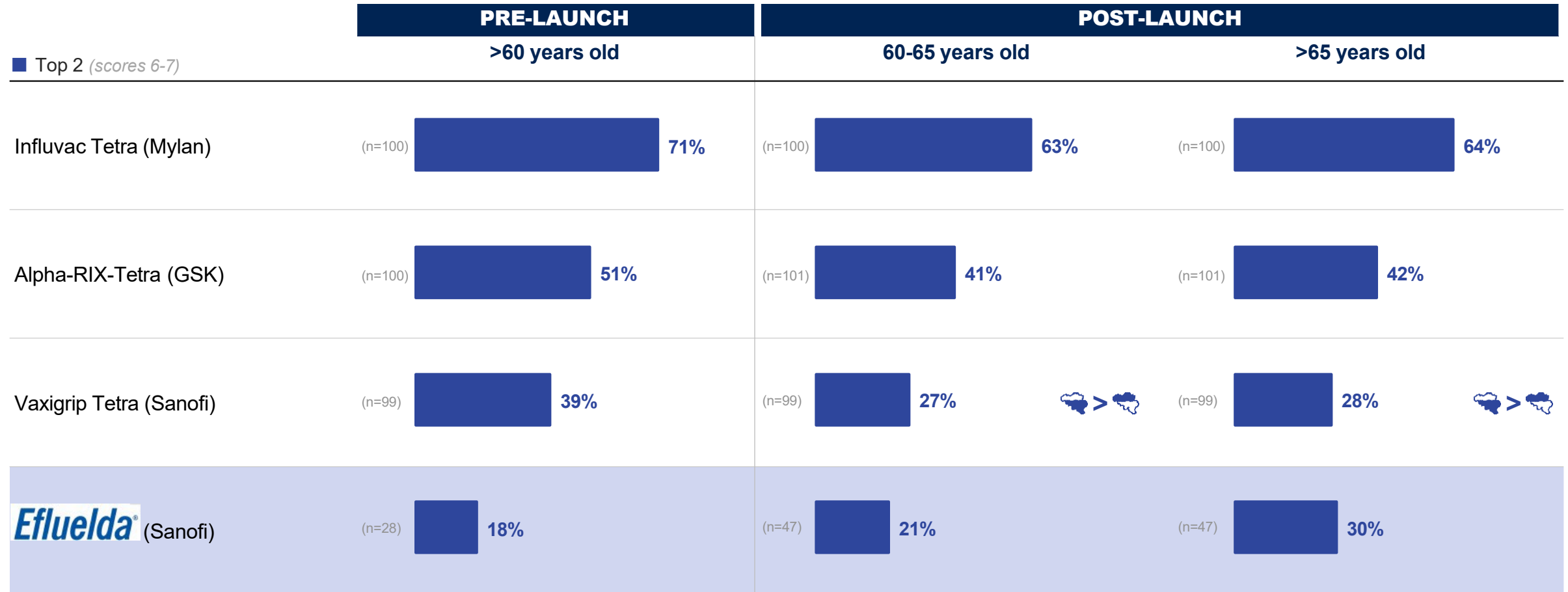
FAMILIARITY WITH INFLUENZA VACCINE BRANDS



i As in previous wave, Tetravalent was spontaneously mentioned by 4%.

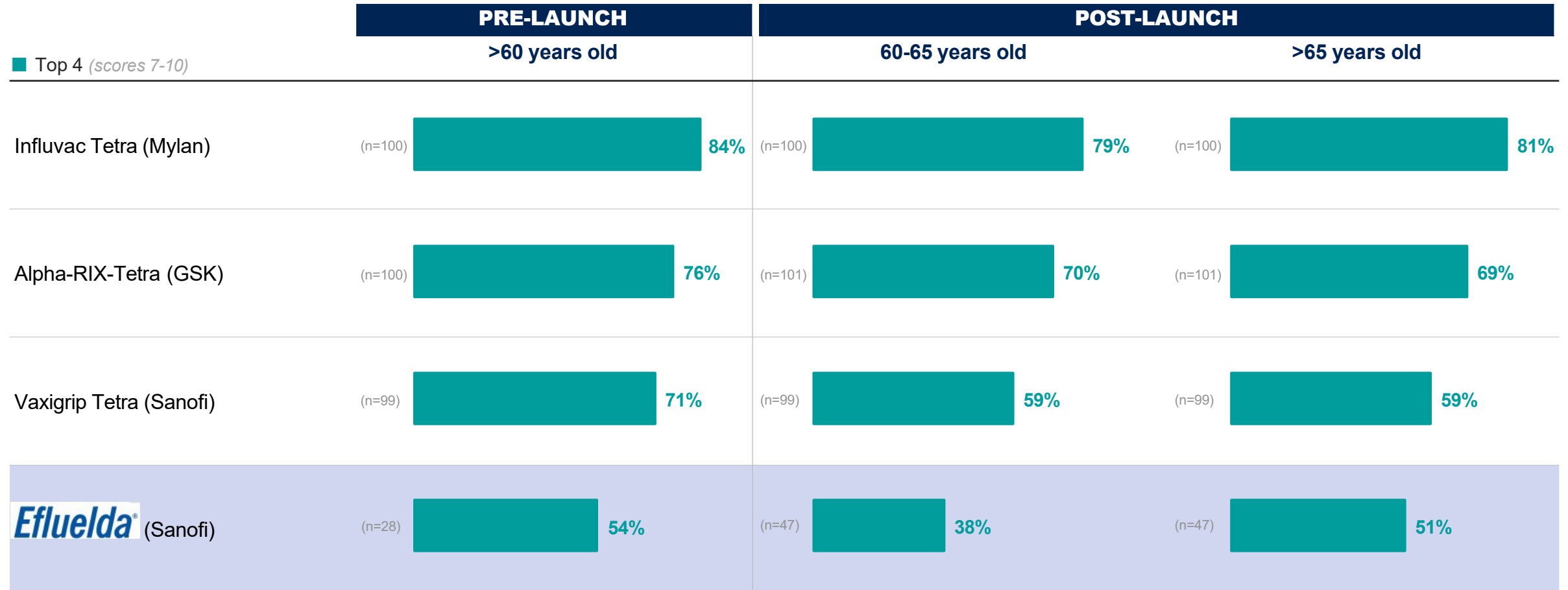
Influvac Tetra remains the most preferred influenza vaccine among GPs to prescribe to elderly patients. Slightly higher preference for Efluelda for patients aged >65 years compared to for patients 60-65 y.o.

PREFERENCE INFLUENZA VACCINE BRANDS



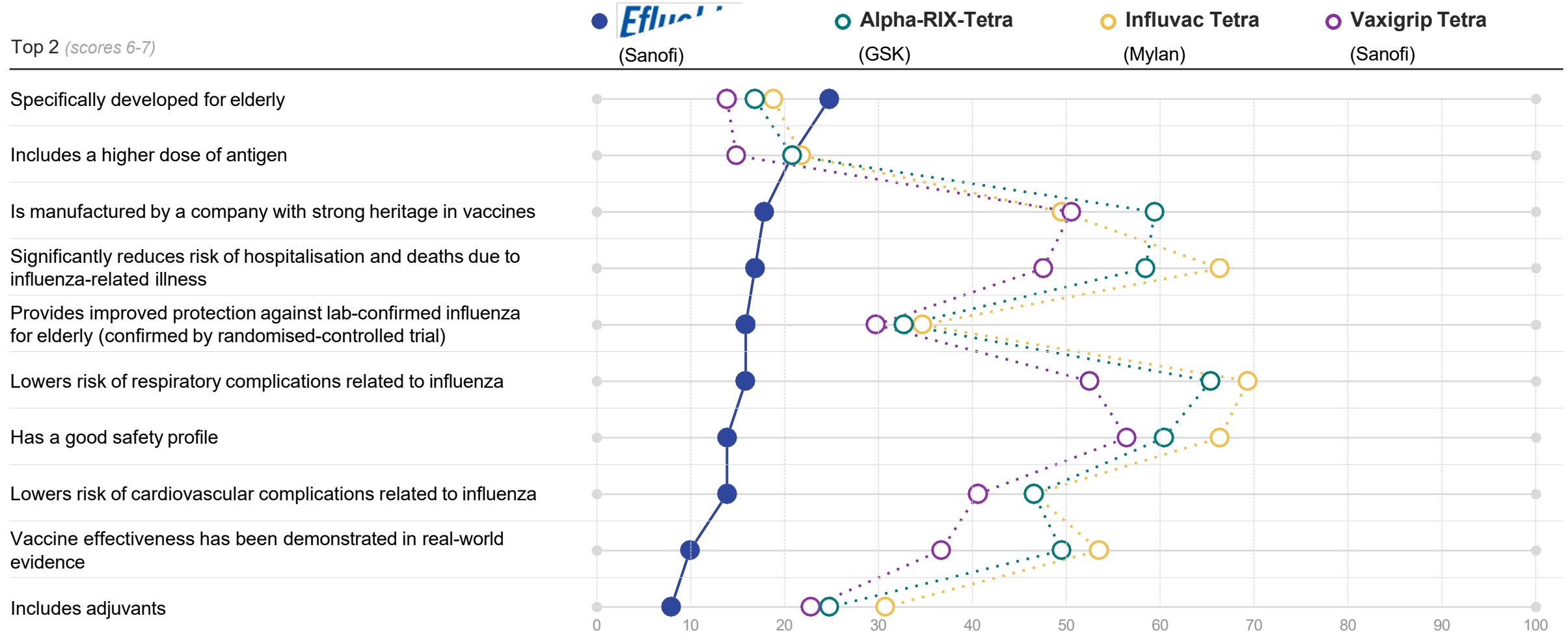
Influvac Tetra remains the most recommended to colleagues to prescribe to elderly patients. Slightly more GPs would recommend Efluelda to their colleagues for prescription with patients aged 65 years and older.

LIKELIHOOD TO RECOMMEND INFLUENZA VACCINE BRANDS TO COLLEAGUES



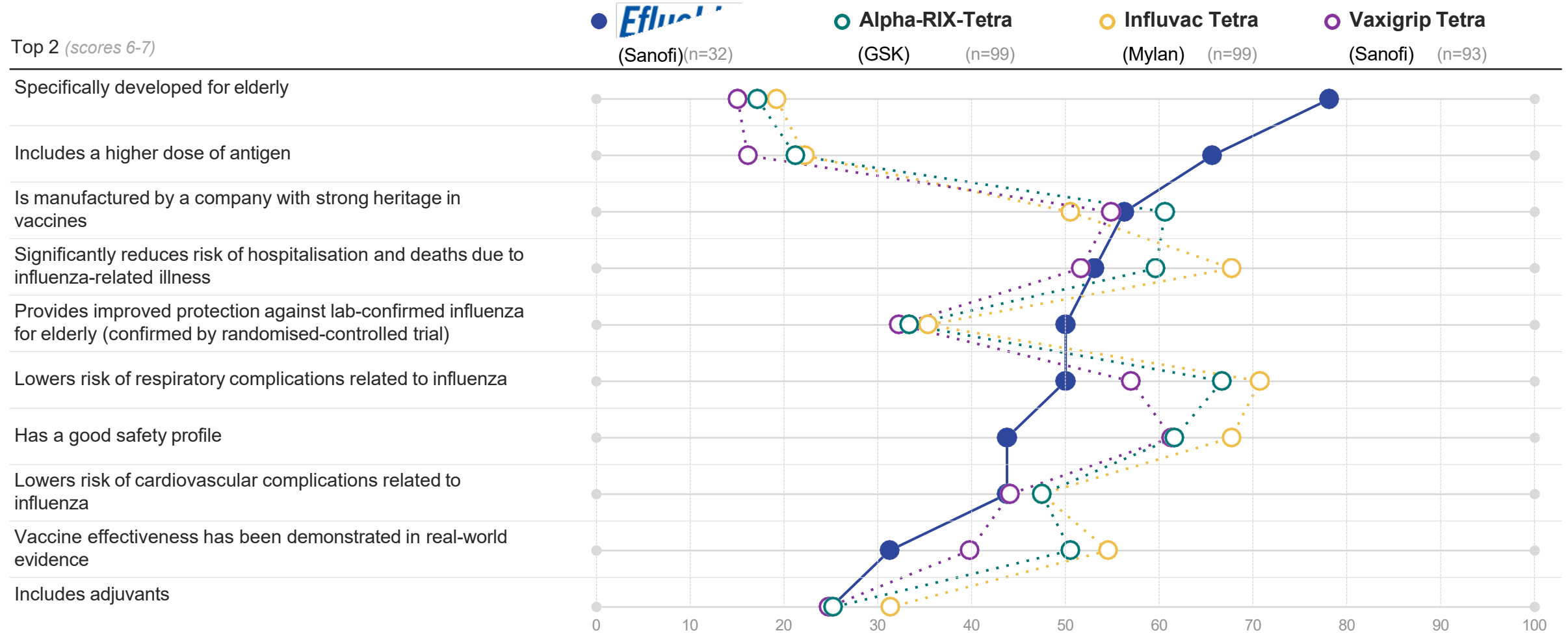
In general, Efluelda has not yet established an image, however, it is already known as a vaccine developed specifically for the elderly.

BRAND ASSOCIATIONS



GPs familiar with the Efluelda vaccine acknowledge it is specifically developed for elderly and strongly associate it to having a higher dose of antigen.

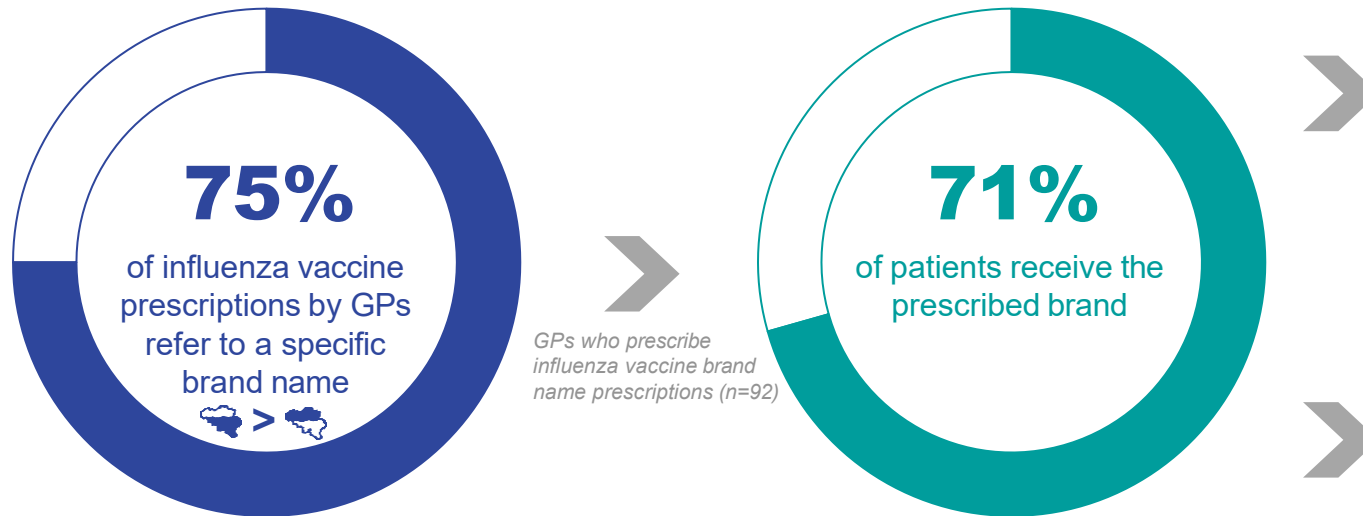
BRAND ASSOCIATIONS AMONG GPs FAMILIAR WITH BRANDS



Base: GPs who are familiar with the specific influenza vaccine brand
 Question: Q2.5. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about [BRAND] (7-point scale)?

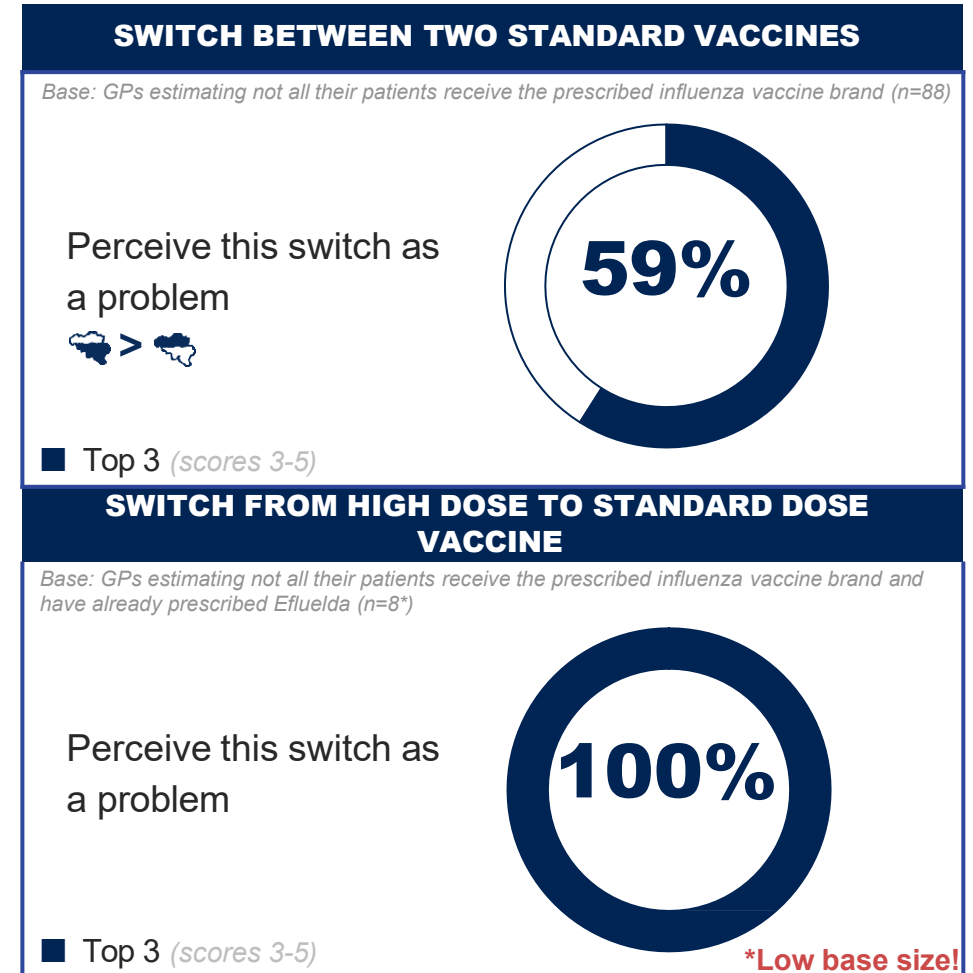
GPs prescribe a specific brand name in 3 out of 4 influenza vaccine prescriptions, with on average estimated that 71% of their patients actually receive the prescribed brand from the pharmacist. If a switch happens between standard dose vaccines, over half of the GPs considers this as problematic.

POSSIBLE SWITCH BETWEEN PRESCRIBED INFLUENZA VACCINE BRANDS



i Also in the previous wave, GPs indicated to prescribe specific brand names in 78% of influenza vaccine prescriptions, of which they estimated 70% of patients actually received the brand.

i 56% of GPs indicated to always write brand name prescriptions instead of generics.



**GPS ARE MAINLY
COMMUNICATING
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VACCINATION
VERBALLY**

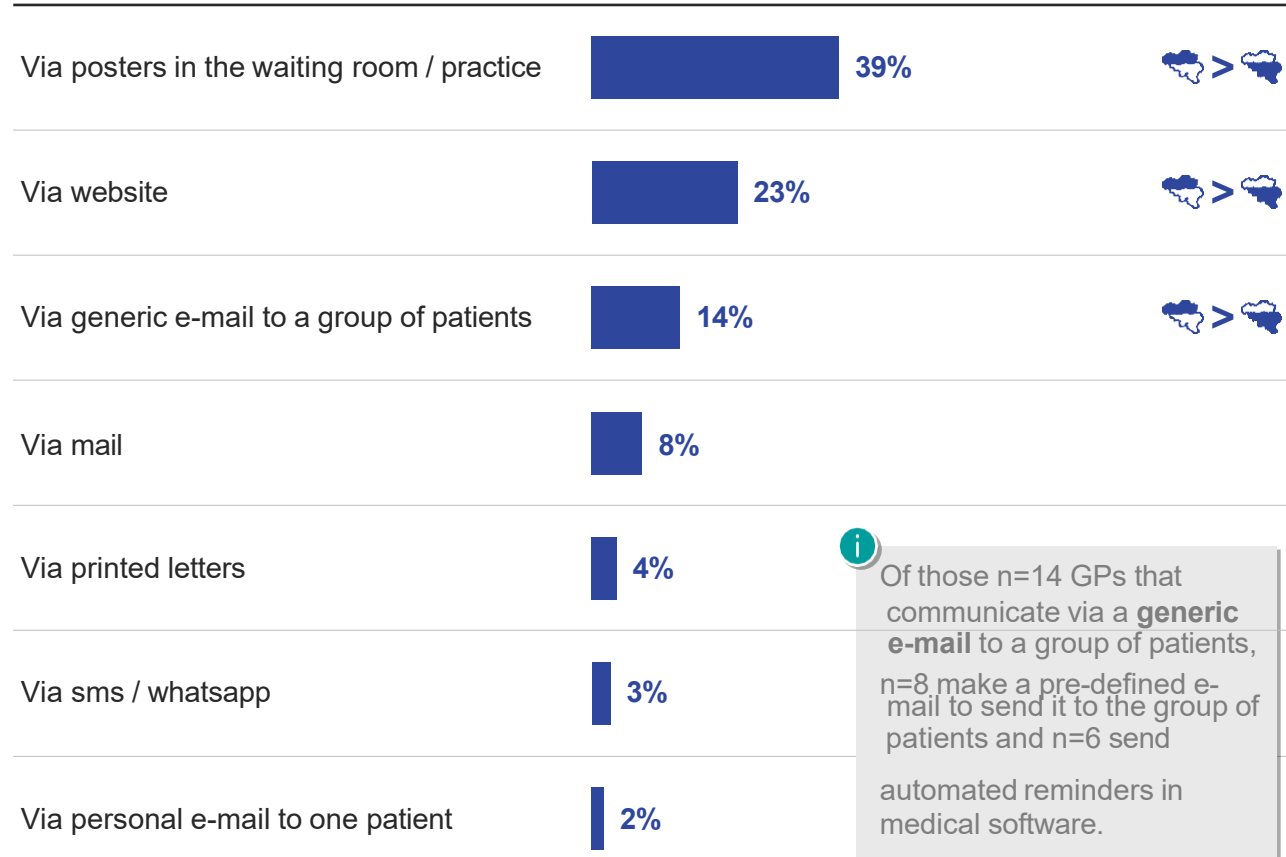
4. KEY FINDINGS

Most GPs convey information regarding the influenza vaccine through verbal communication during patient consultations. Additionally, 4 out of 10 utilize posters in their practice or waiting room to enhance the information.

COMMUNICATION CHANNEL

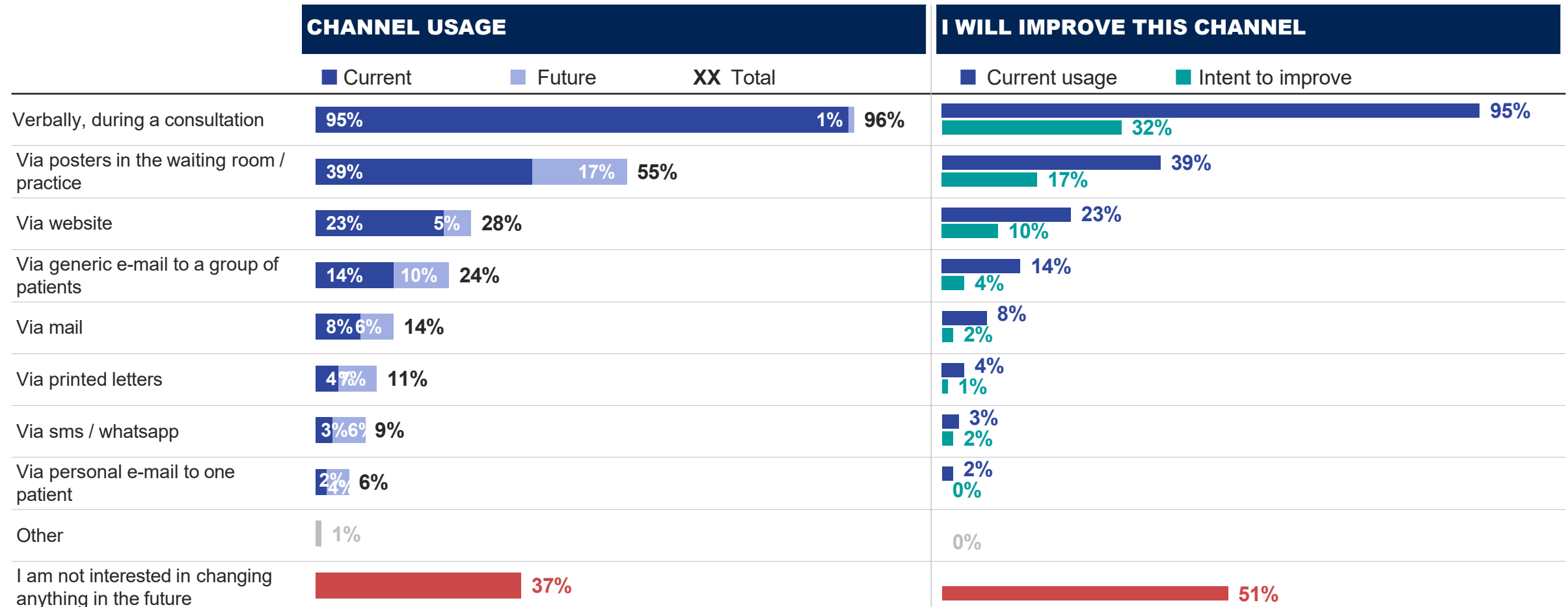
95%

Verbally, during a consultation



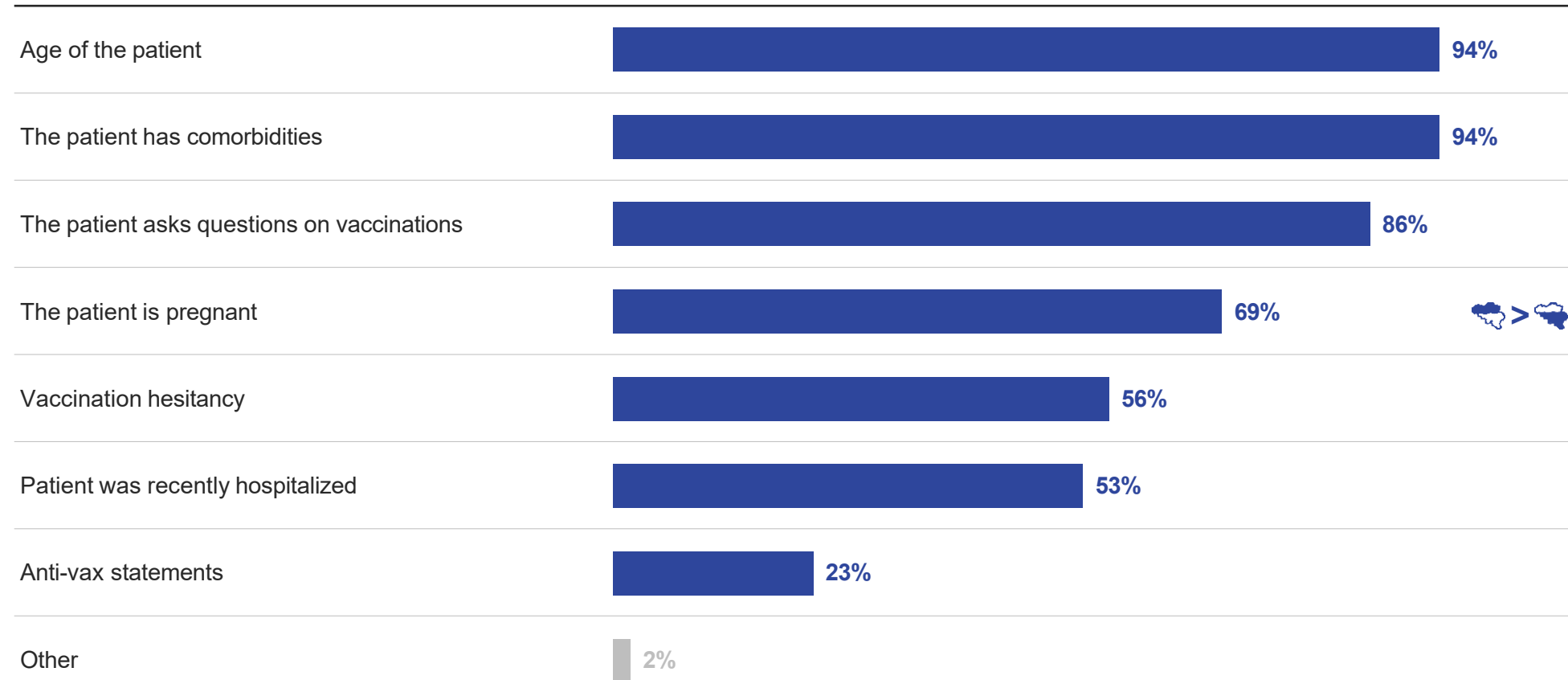
Almost all GPs will communicate about influenza vaccination verbally in the future and more than half indicate to make use of posters in the waiting room or practice. Half is not interested in improving their communication via any channel in the future.

FUTURE USAGE AND IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNICATION CHANNELS



Age of the patient, patients with comorbidities and pro-actively asking questions about vaccines are the most important triggers for GPs to discuss influenza vaccination with their patients.

TRIGGERS TO DISCUSS INFLUENZA VACCINATION

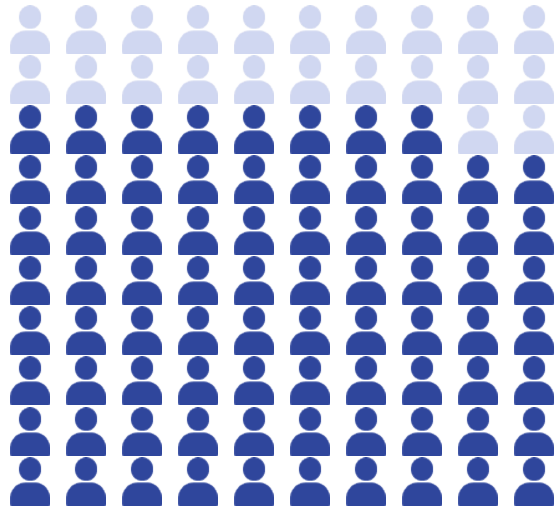


Providing additional information to elderly patients about the availability of a high dose vaccine is considered valuable to add to communication, as they generally have a lower immune system.

EXTRA INFORMATION CONSIDERED TO PROVIDE TO ELDERLY PATIENTS ON INFLUENZA VACCINATION

78%

Elderly have lower immunity



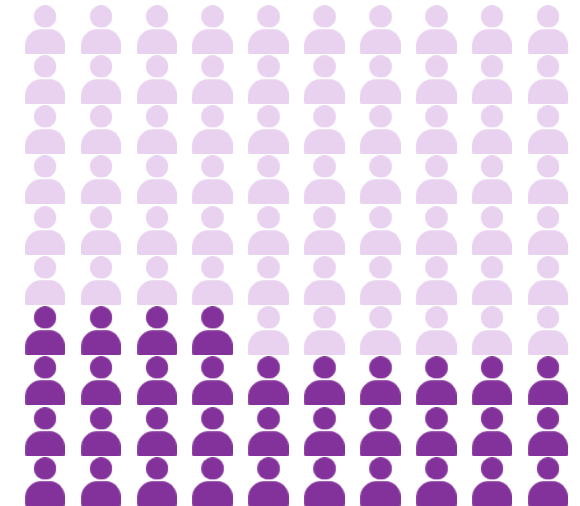
72%  

Availability of a high dose vaccine



34%

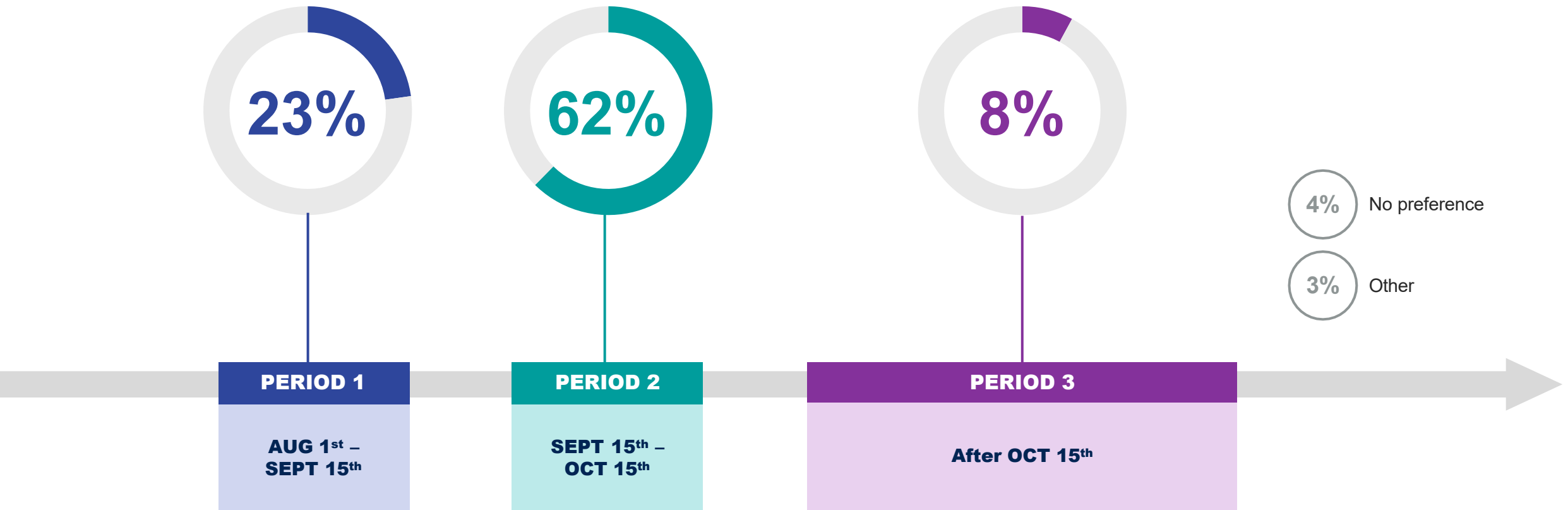
Foresee an option for them to click to have an automated prescription



 **Top 2** (scores 4-5)

Most of the GPs will engage in communication regarding the influenza vaccine during the period between September 15th and October 15th.

TIMING COMMUNICATION OF INFLUENZA VACCINATION

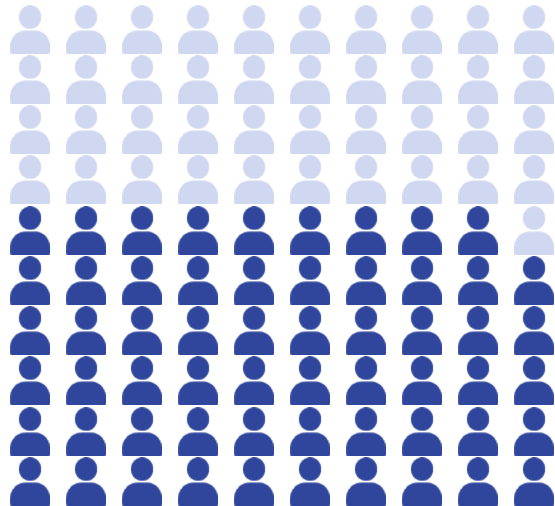


Almost all GPs would inform their patients about the higher price of a higher dose influenza vaccine with 4 out of 10 including a strong recommendation that the higher dose vaccine will provide the best protection. However, only half do consider it as their role.

INFORM PATIENT OF PRICE OF HIGH DOSE INFLUENZA VACCINE

59%

I would inform my patients and let them decide



51%

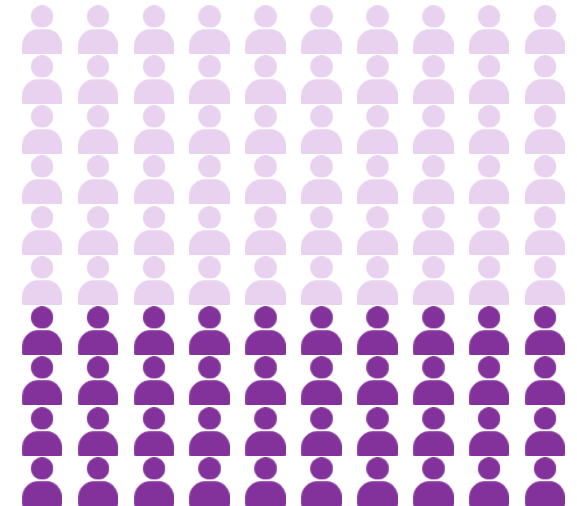
It is my role to inform my patients of the higher price to pay for a high dose vaccine versus a standard dose vaccine



 **Top 2 (scores 6-7)**

40%

I would inform my patients but with strong recommendation from me that this is the best protection for them

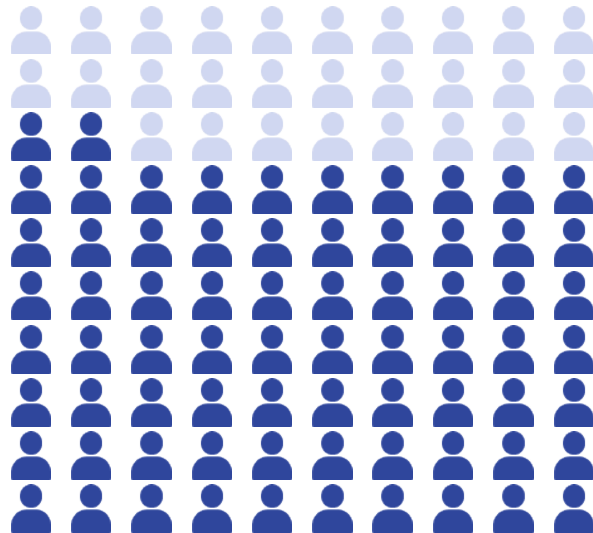


More information campaigns and materials, such as flyers, on the topic of influenza vaccination to raise awareness is expected from GPs.

SPONTANEOUS ROLE OF PHARMACEUTIC COMPANIES IN SUPPORT ON INFLUENZA VACCINATION

72%

Information campaigns
(flyers, raise awareness...)



Provide assistance (nursing assistance, deliver materials, ...)

7%

Provide samples

4%

Delivery of the vaccines

4%

Keep the vaccines affordable/reduce prices

4%

Provide proof of the efficiency/safety of the vaccine(s)

3%

(Enough) production

2%

Visit from delegates/representatives

2%

Nothing

9

Other

4



In previous wave, 55% of the GPs indicated to expect more information from the pharmaceutical companies.

Base: Total sample post-launch (n=101)

Question: Q4.2. And finally, what role do you think that pharmaceutical companies can play in support on influenza vaccination?

QUOTES



Provide a maximum of **folders**, **posters** and other means to **inform patients**.



Clear information to physicians regarding the **clinical effectiveness** of the drug. I notice little resistance in our practice regarding the flu vaccine in the elderly (>60 years old).



Provide adequate **information** material for **patients**, information via TV, magazines, ...



Conducting **seminars** and **conferences** on vaccination, printing brochures and distributing them to medical clinics.



Informing patients, explaining **action** and **side effects**.



Provision of **informational brochures** and posters.



More advertising in public to **raise patient awareness!**



Setting up **informational campaigns**.



Advertising on **TV** and **social media posters** in **waiting rooms** and **public buildings**.



Make the **vaccines available** to us in **September** and stop putting financial pressure on the pharmacies to allow us to get what we have prescribed from them.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5

RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THIS RESEARCH



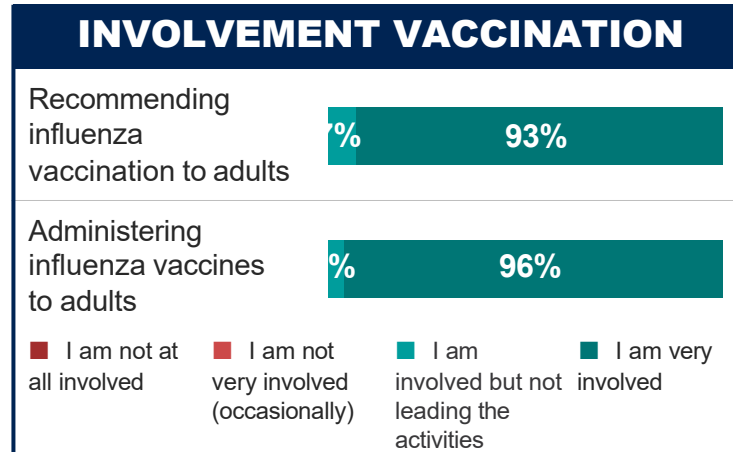
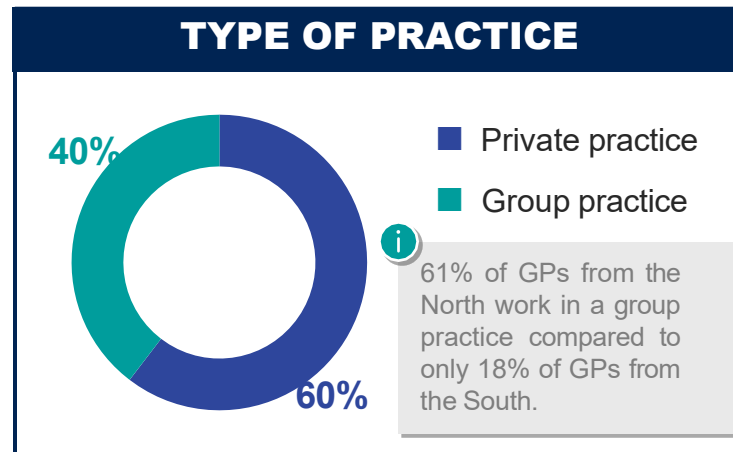
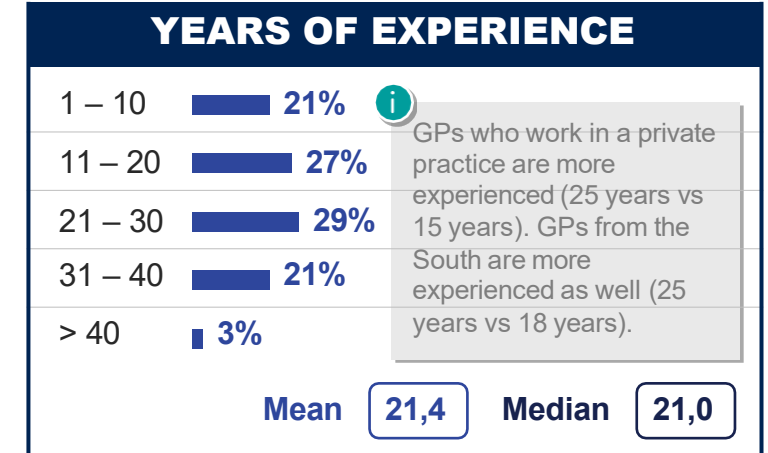
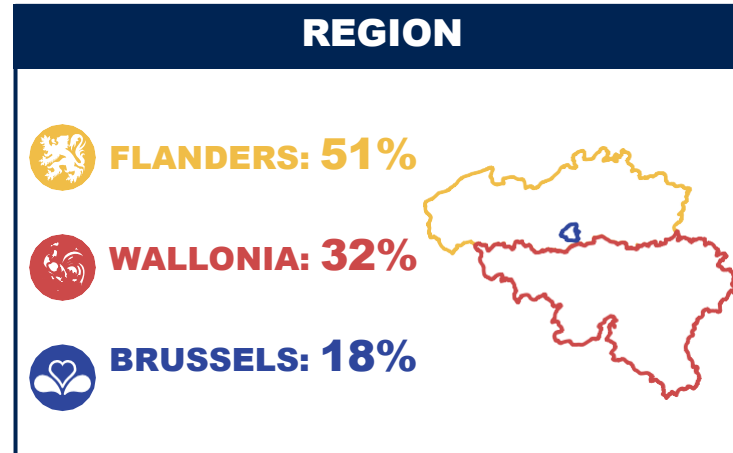
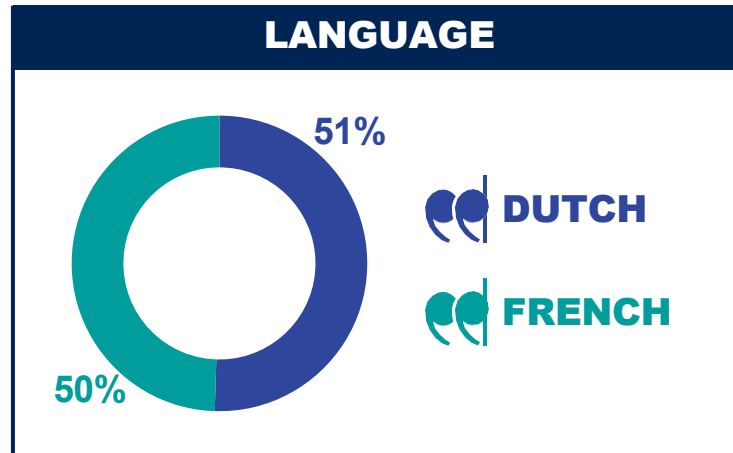
SUPPORTIVE DATA

6. Supportive data

|

GPs in sample have on average 21 years of experience, work more often in a private practice and are involved in recommending and administering influenza vaccines to adults.

SAMPLE COMPOSITION (1/2)



On average, GPs see 454 adult patients per month, whereof more than half is older than 60 years. Around 90% of these patients will receive a recommendation or prescription for an influenza vaccine.

SAMPLE COMPOSITION (2/2)

ADULT PATIENTS PER MONTH

Mean **453,6**

Median **400,0**

ELDERLY INFLUENZA VACCINATION

RECOMMEND

PRESCRIBE

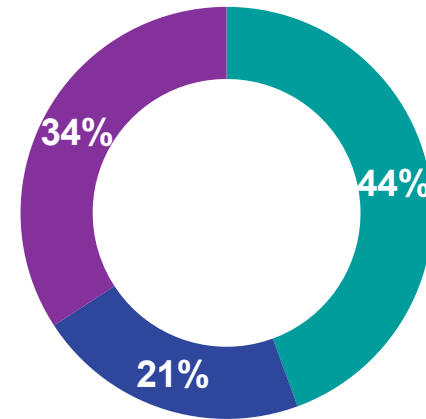
Mean **95%**

88%

Median **100%**

90%

PROPORTION ELDERLY PATIENTS



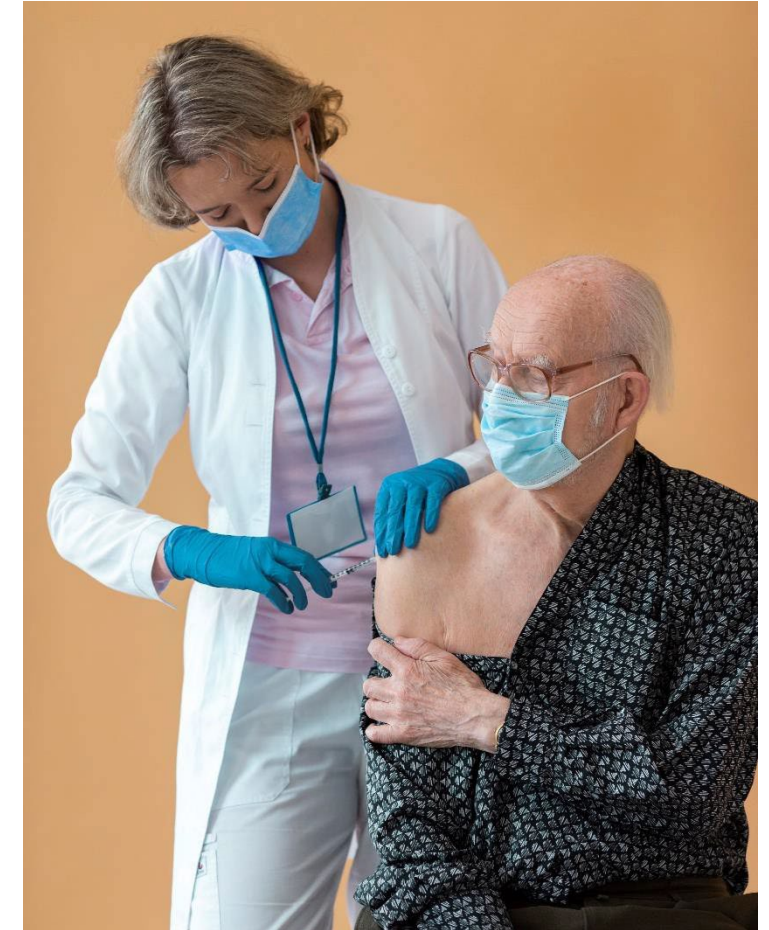
< 60 years old patients

Patients between 60 and 65 years old

> 65 years old patients



More GPs from the North see patients younger than 60 years old (48% vs 41%), while GPs from the South see more patients between 60 and 65 years old (25% vs 18%).

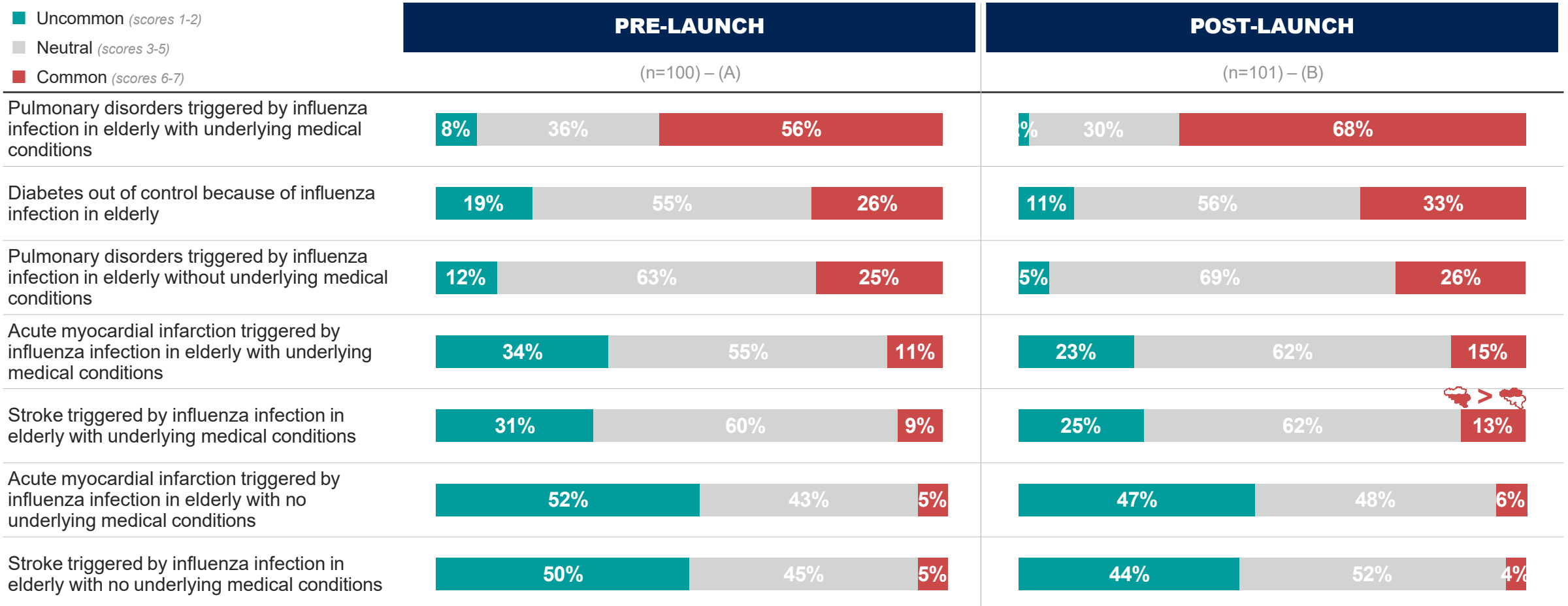


ATTITUDES TOWARDS INFLUENZA PROTECTION

6. Supportive data

Especially pulmonary disorders in elderly are recognized by GPs because of an influenza infection. Other conditions, triggered by influenza are less well known.

INCIDENCE OF UNDERLYING EVENTS DUE TO INFLUENZA INFECTION



Most GPs agree that the immune system of elderly undergoes a gradual decline and that they could benefit from a vaccine to enhance their immune response. In comparison to previous wave, slightly more GPs now recognize some influenza vaccines are more effective in elderly.

CORRELATION BETWEEN AGE AND VACCINATION EFFICACY

Disagree (scores 1-4)

Score 5

Score 6

Totally agree (score 7)

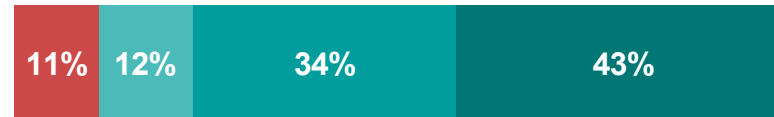
PRE-LAUNCH

(n=100) – (A)

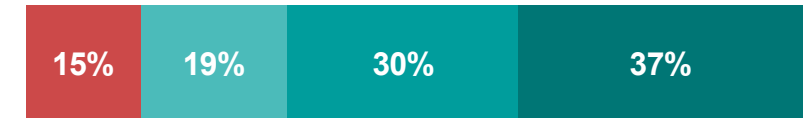
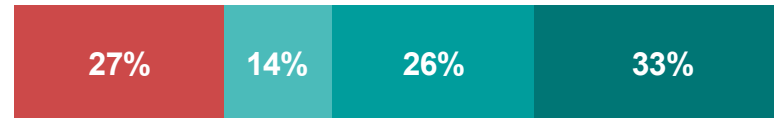
POST-LAUNCH

(n=101) – (B)

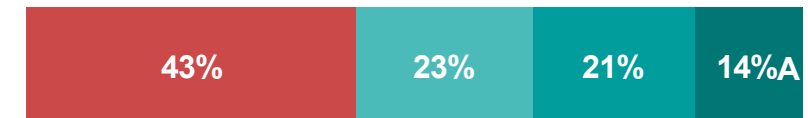
Elderly will experience a gradual decline of their immune system function



Elderly can benefit from an influenza vaccine that will elicit a stronger immune response



There are some influenza vaccines that are more efficacious in elderly



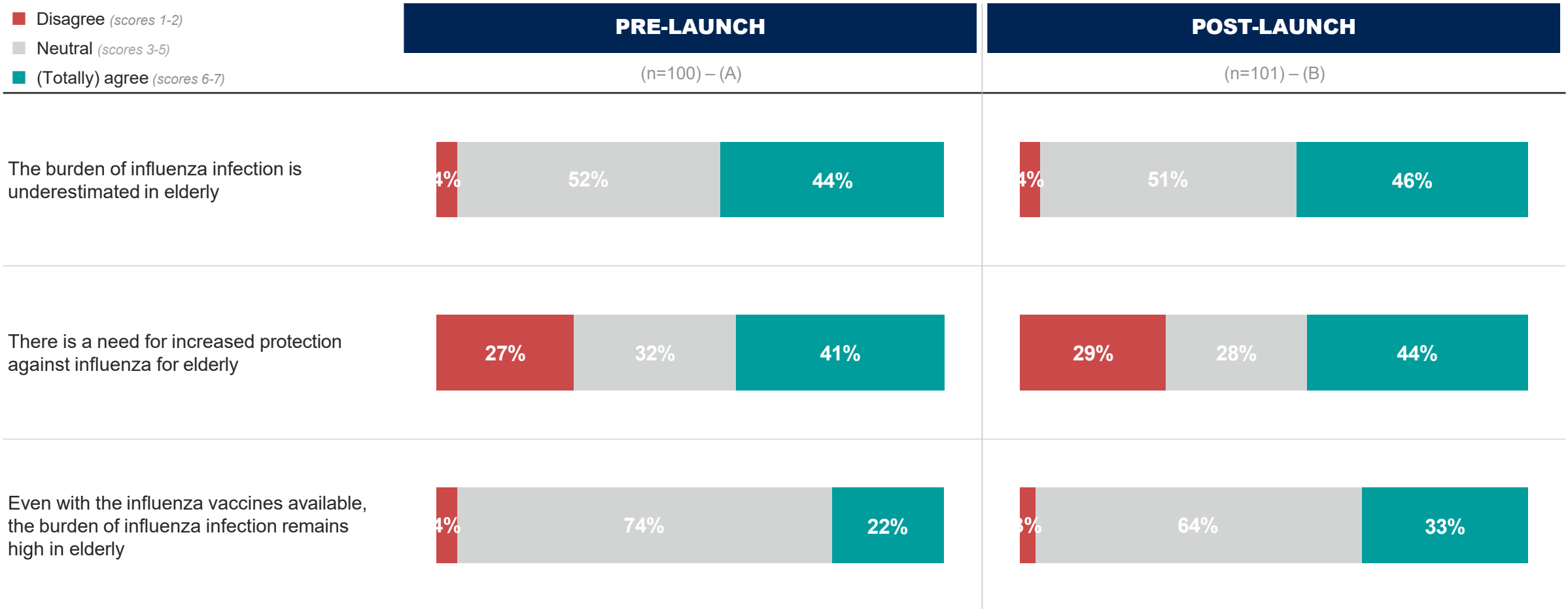
Half of GPs believe that the burden of influenza infection is underestimated in elderly and that there is a need to increase protection against influenza in this patient group.

PERCEPTION ON THE BURDEN OF INFLUENZA INFECTION

■ Disagree (scores 1-2)

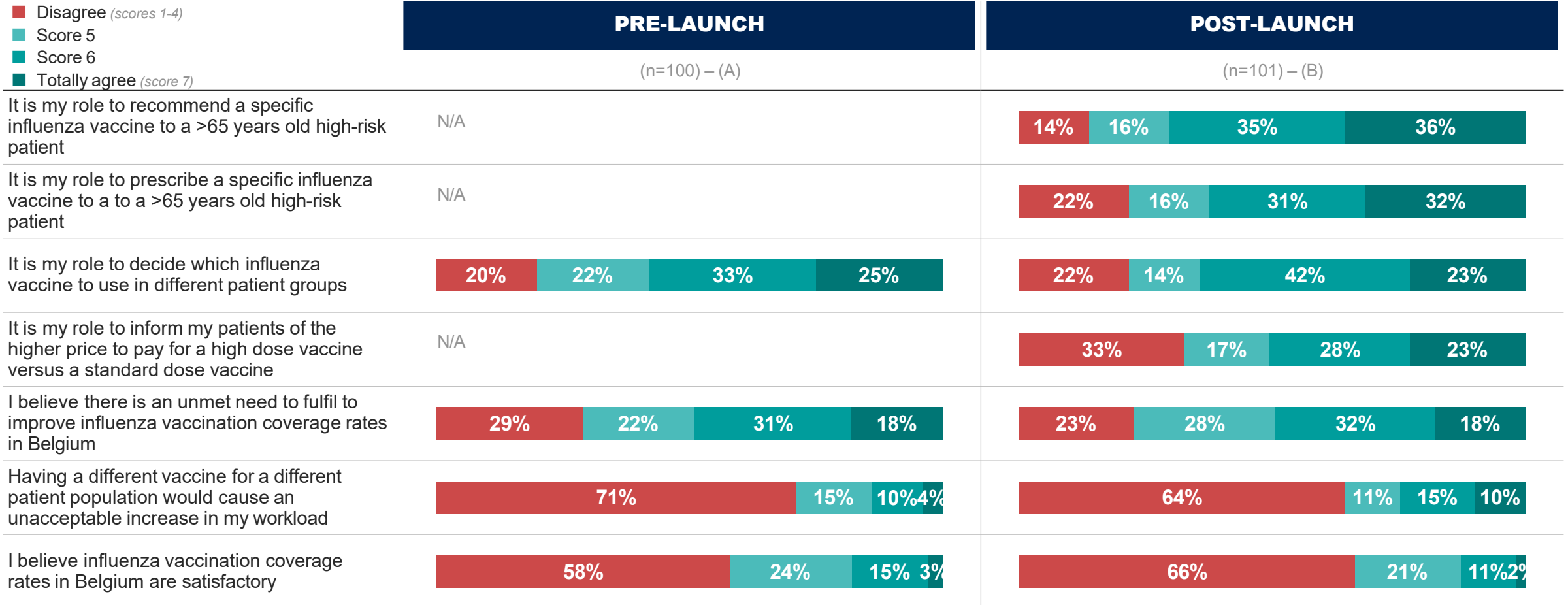
■ Neutral (scores 3-5)

■ (Totally) agree (scores 6-7)



GPs believe it is their role to recommend, decide and prescribe a specific influenza vaccine to their (elderly) patients.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS A DIFFERENTIATED APPROACH AND VACCINATION COVARAGE RATES

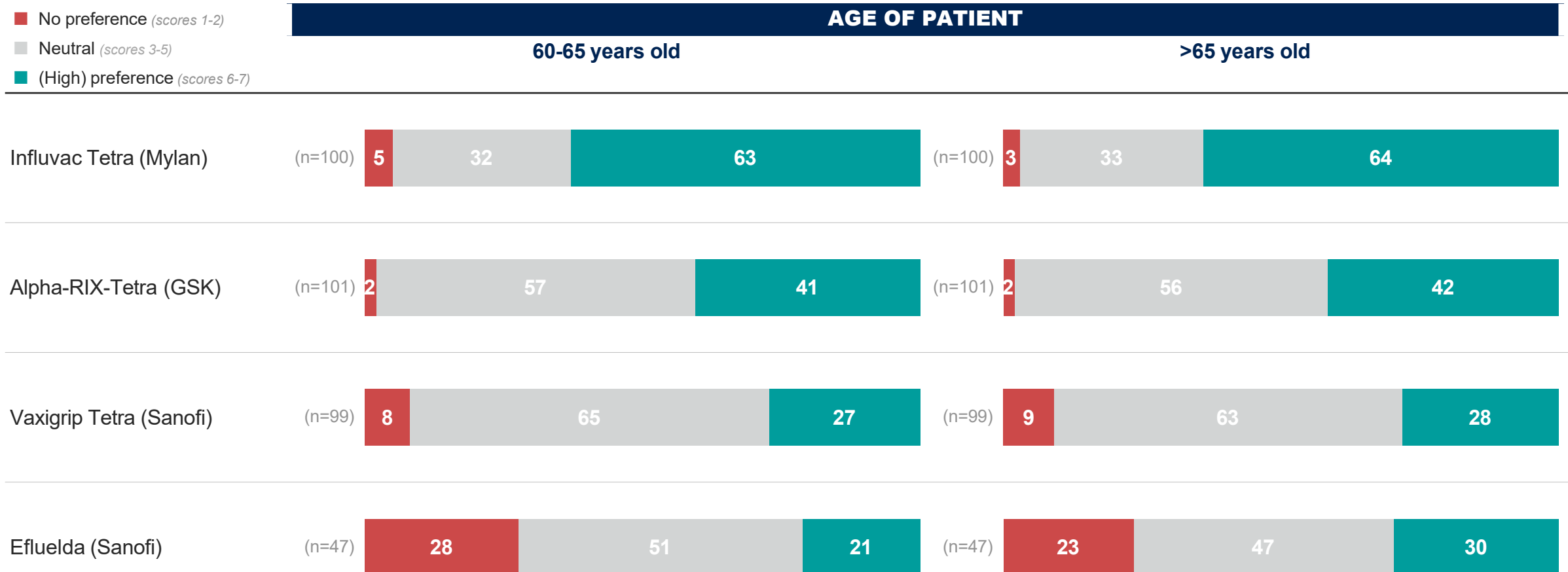


VACCINATION RECOMMENDATION AND PREFERENCE

6. Supportive data

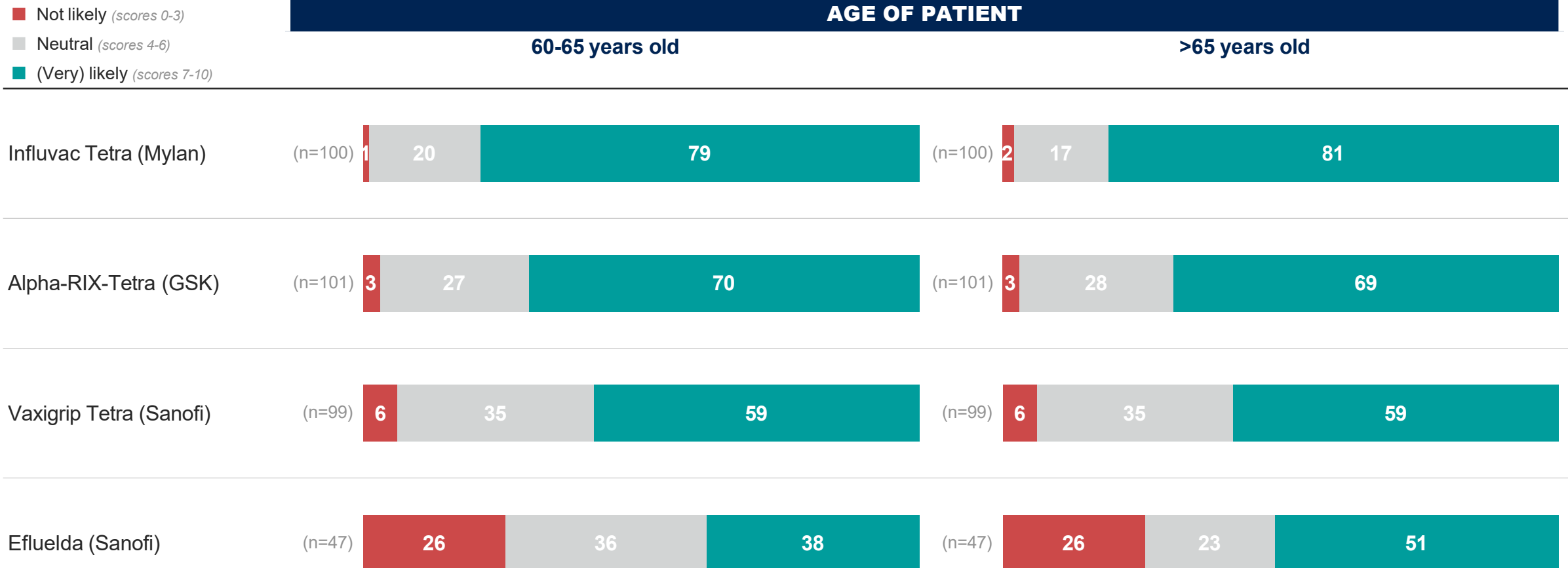
Preference between brands is similar across both age groups as Influvac is for both groups the most preferred vaccine, followed by Alpha-RIX-Tetra. Efluelda is slightly more preferred for patients older than 65 years.

INFLUENZA VACCINE BRAND PREFERENCE



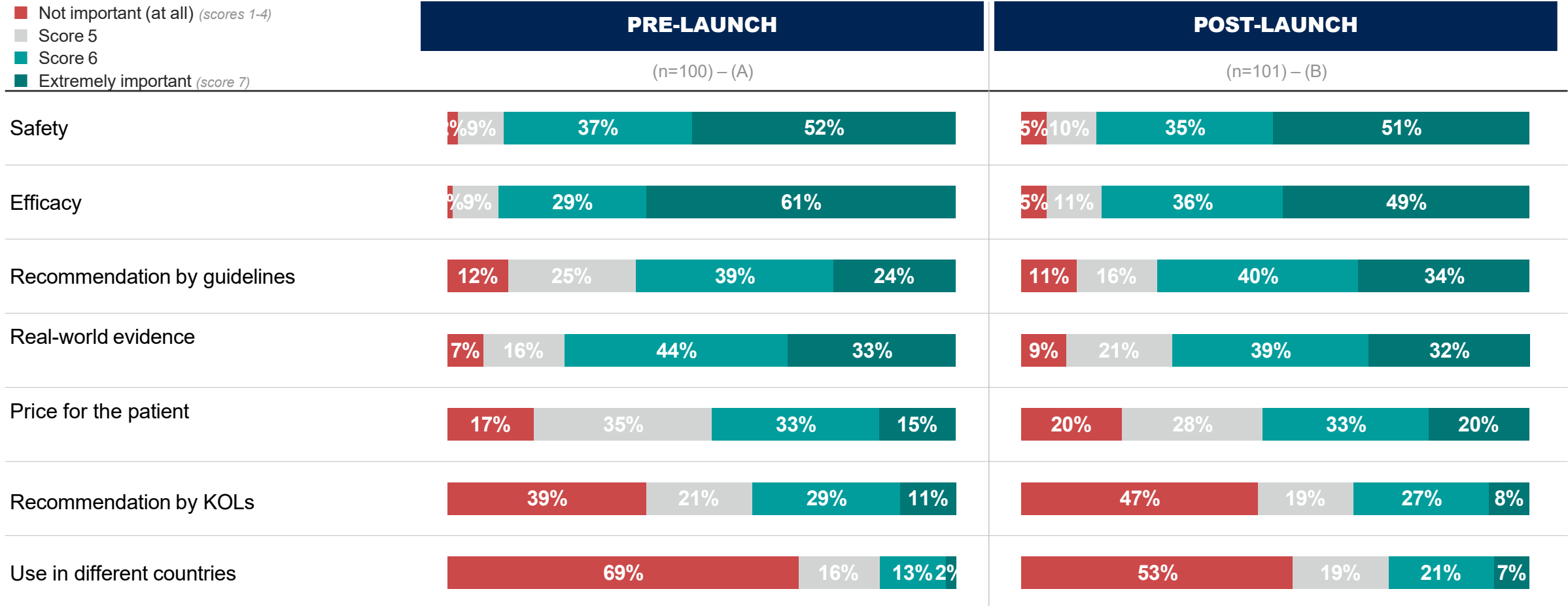
Already half of the GPs will recommend the Efluelda vaccine for use in adults older than 65 years to their colleagues.

LIKELIHOOD TO RECOMMEND INFLUENZA VACCINE BRANDS



Safety, efficacy, recommendation by guidelines and real-world evidence are forming the top 4 of most important factors to convince the doctors of prescription/administration of a new influenza vaccine with improved efficacy.

DRIVERS TO PRESCRIBE AND/OR ADMINISTER A NEW INFLUENZA VACCINE WITH IMPROVED EFFICACY



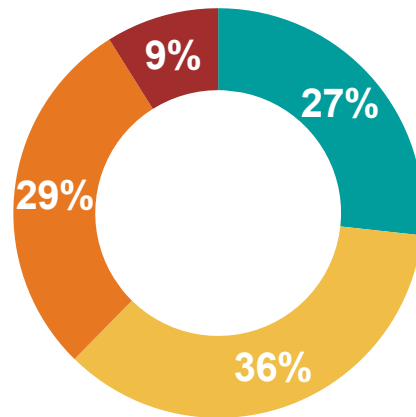
6. Supportive data

27% of GPs in sample indicates to organize influenza vaccination days. Half of them doesn't experience this as a burden, which is like previous wave.

INFLUENZA VACCINATION DAYS

ORGANIZATION OF INFLUENZA VACCINATION DAYS

Base: Total sample post-launch (n=101)



i In previous wave, 35% of GPs indicated to organize vaccination days.



■ Yes

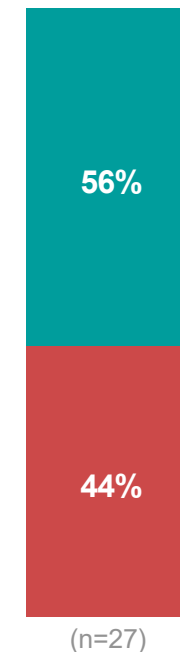
■ No, but I would like to have more information if this is eligible for me

■ No, but I'm considering it for next season

■ No, because organized by municipality

BURDEN OF INFLUENZA VACCINATION DAYS

Base: GPs who organize vaccination days in their practice



■ Yes, yet I would like to keep organizing it

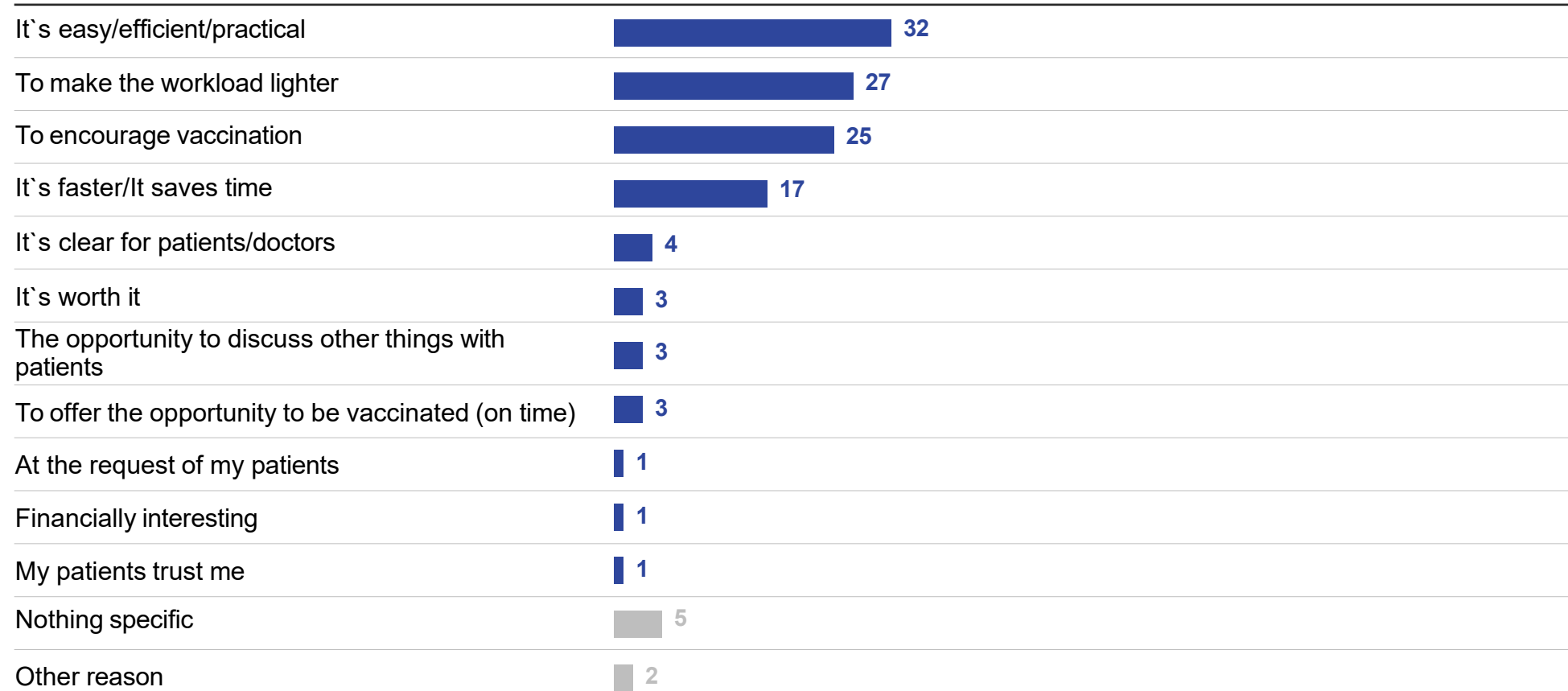
■ Yes, and I would like pharmacists to take this over

■ No

i In previous wave, also 53% of GPs indicated that vaccination days are a burden, but that they would like to keep organizing it.

Organizing vaccination days is considered as easy and efficient. It makes the workload lighter and encourages vaccination.

SPONTANEOUS REASONS FOR ORGANIZING VACCINATION DAYS



Almost half of the GPs do not consider it important to foresee an option for their patients to have an automated prescription.

EXTRA INFORMATION CONSIDERED TO PROVIDE TO ELDERLY PATIENTS ON INFLUENZA VACCINATION

■ I would definitely not consider adding this information (Scores 1 – 2) ■ I would maybe consider adding this information (Score 3) ■ I would (definitely) consider adding this information (Scores 4 – 5)

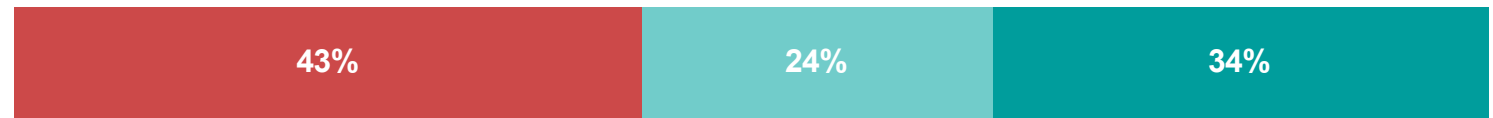
Elderly have lower immunity



Availability of a high dose vaccine



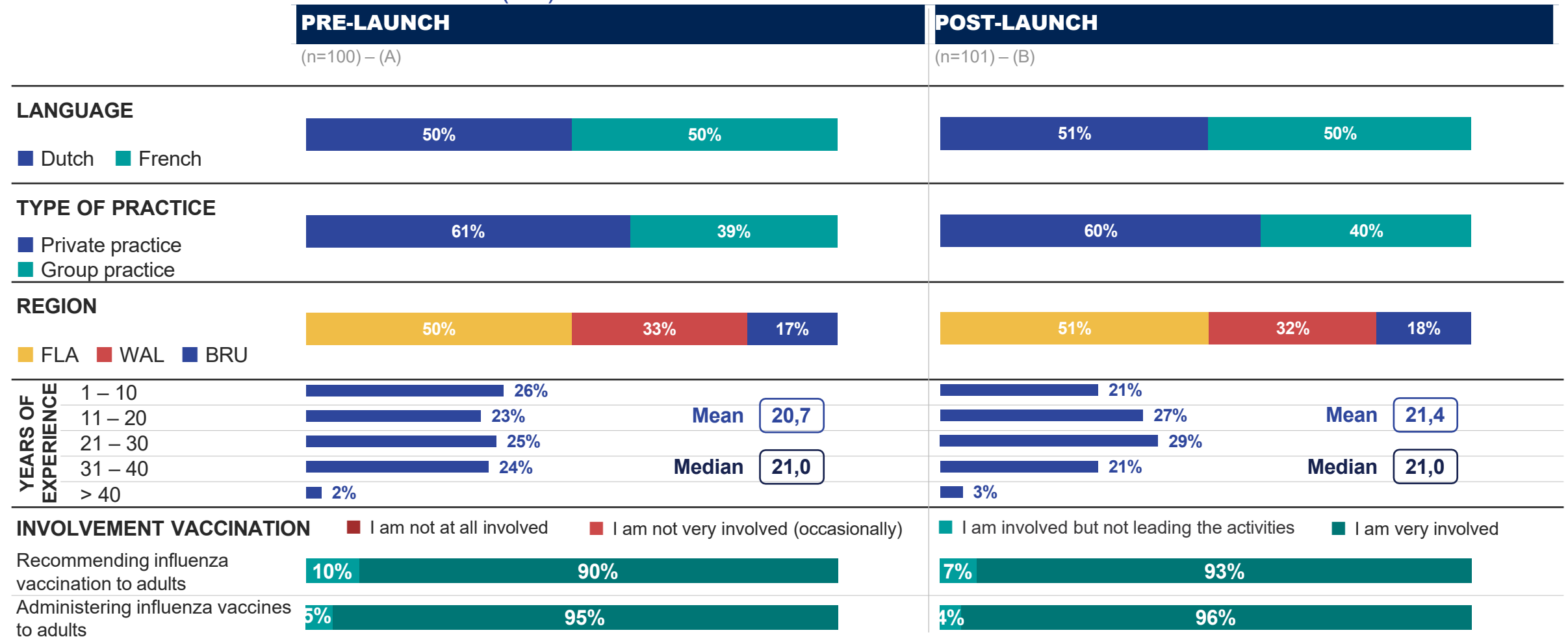
Foresee an option for them to click to have an automated prescription



APPENDIX

7

SAMPLE COMPOSITION EVOLUTION (1/2)



SAMPLE COMPOSITION EVOLUTION (2/2)

PRE-LAUNCH

(n=100) – (A)

POST-LAUNCH

(n=101) – (B)

ADULT PATIENTS PER MONTH

Mean

415,9

Median

400,0

Mean

453,6

Median

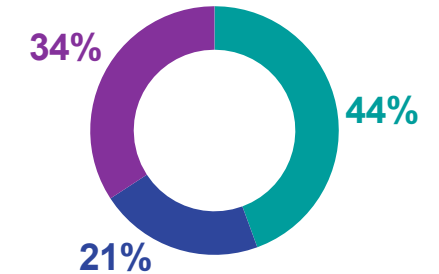
400,0

PROPORTION ELDERLY PATIENTS

■ < 60 years old patients
 ■ ≥ 60 years old patients



■ < 60 years old patients
 ■ 60 to 65 years old patients
 ■ > 65 years old patients



INFLUENZA VACCINE PATIENTS ≥60 y.o.

Recommend

Mean

91,9

Median

95,0

Mean

94,5

Median

100,0

Prescribe

Mean

88,0

Median

90,0