

Enhancing Safety Netting Practices in Paediatric A&E

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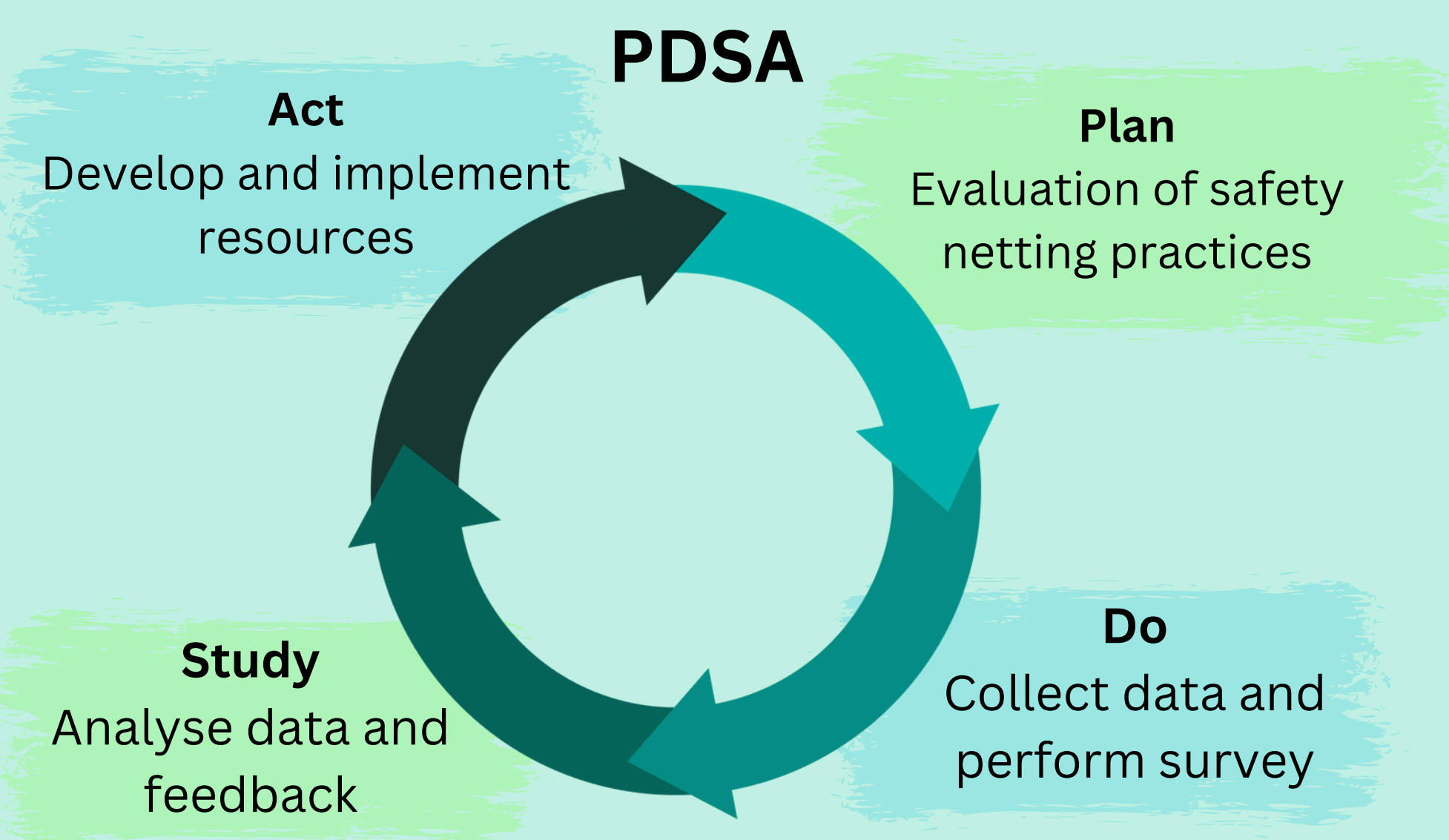
The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) "Facing the Future: Standards for Children in Emergency Care Settings" highlights the critical role of paediatric emergency departments (PED) in ensuring the safe discharge of children. Safety netting advice provides clear guidance on when and how to seek further medical attention, essential for patient safety, particularly given the diagnostic uncertainties in paediatric emergency care. This project aimed to evaluate and improve current safety netting practices in a London District General Hospital PED.

Aims

Perform a multi-PDSA cycle quality improvement project (QIP) to assess the quality and effectiveness of safety netting advice in paediatric A&E.

Review adherence to RCPCH Standard 24, which requires registered practitioners to “deliver health promotion and accident prevention advice that is recorded in discharge summary notes”.

Use feedback from patients and parents to improve the clarity and accessibility of safety netting advice.



Methods

Plan: Evaluation of safety netting practices in PED, assessing compliance with Standard 24 and patient experience.

Cycle 1:

- Retrospective audit of safety netting documentation (Jan 2024).
- Anonymous parent survey (July–Aug 2024) on clarity and effectiveness.

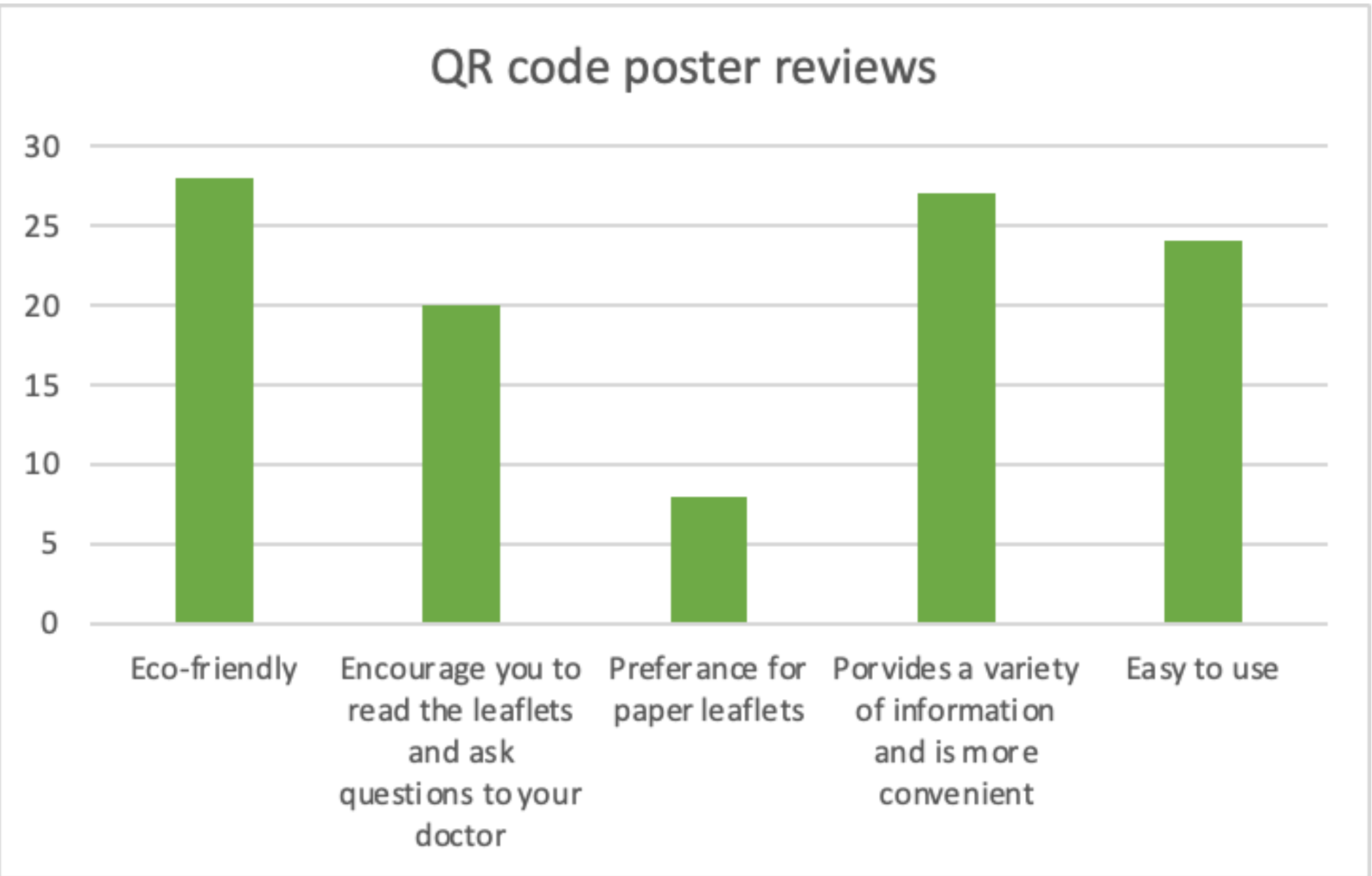
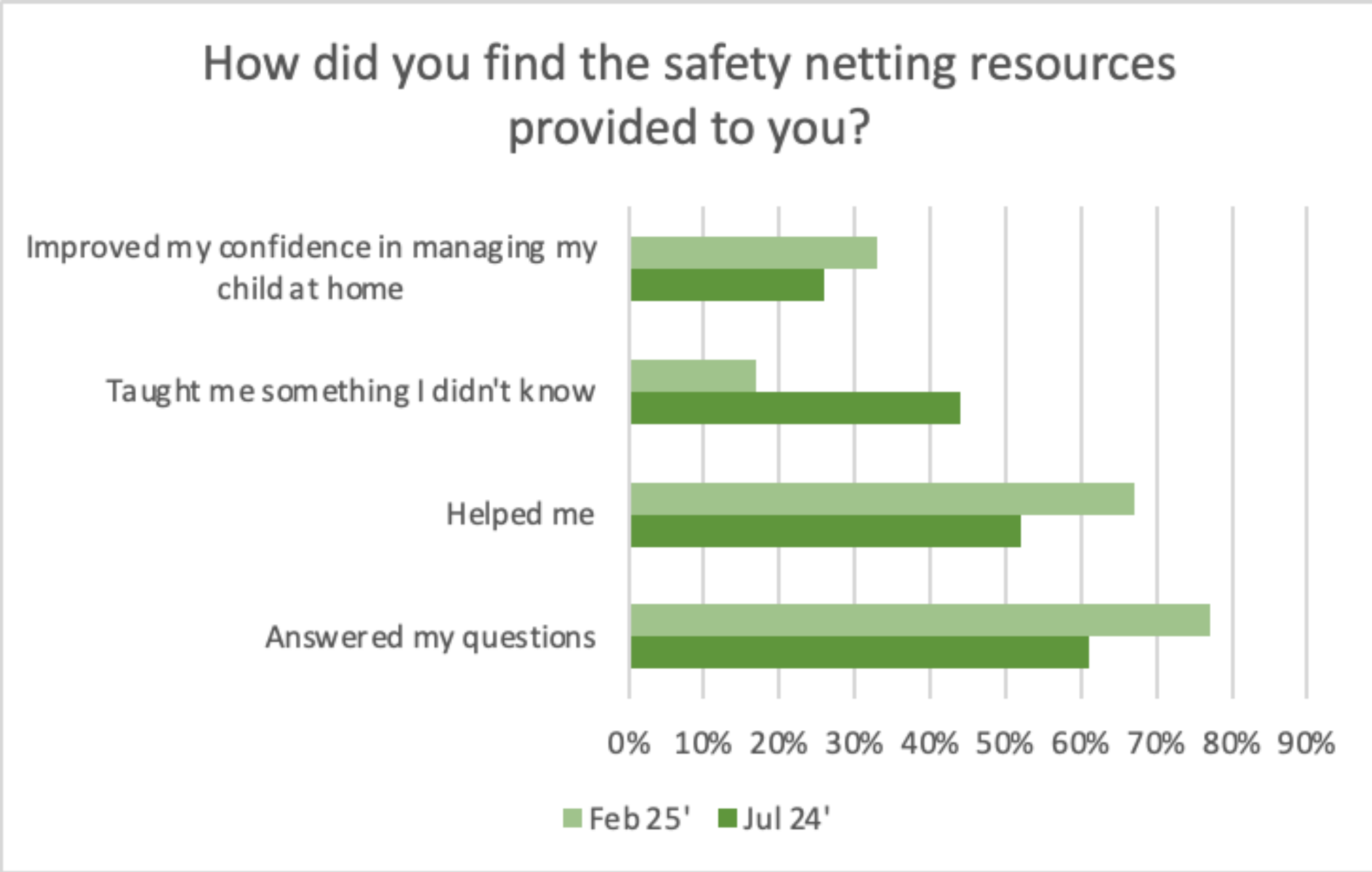
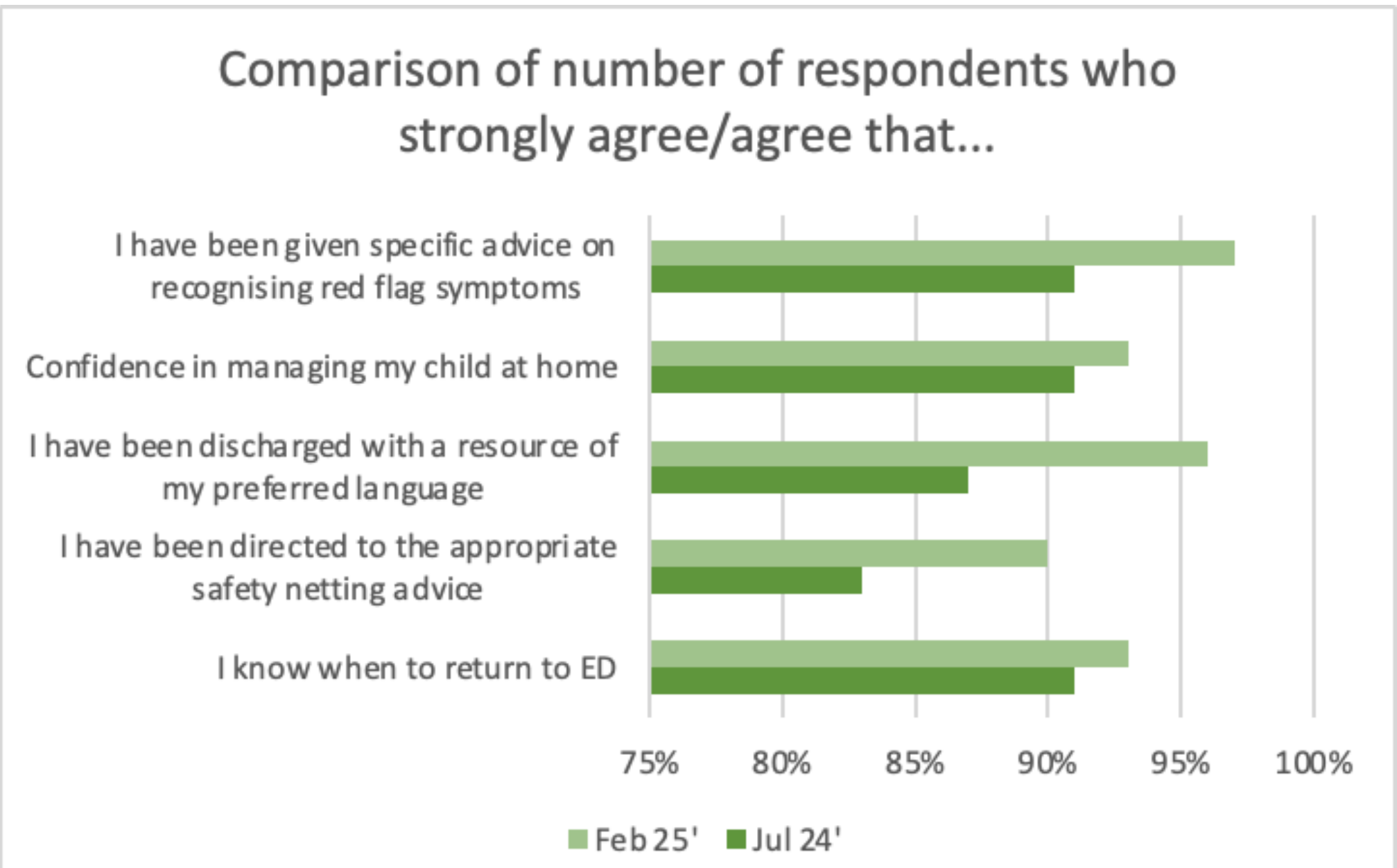
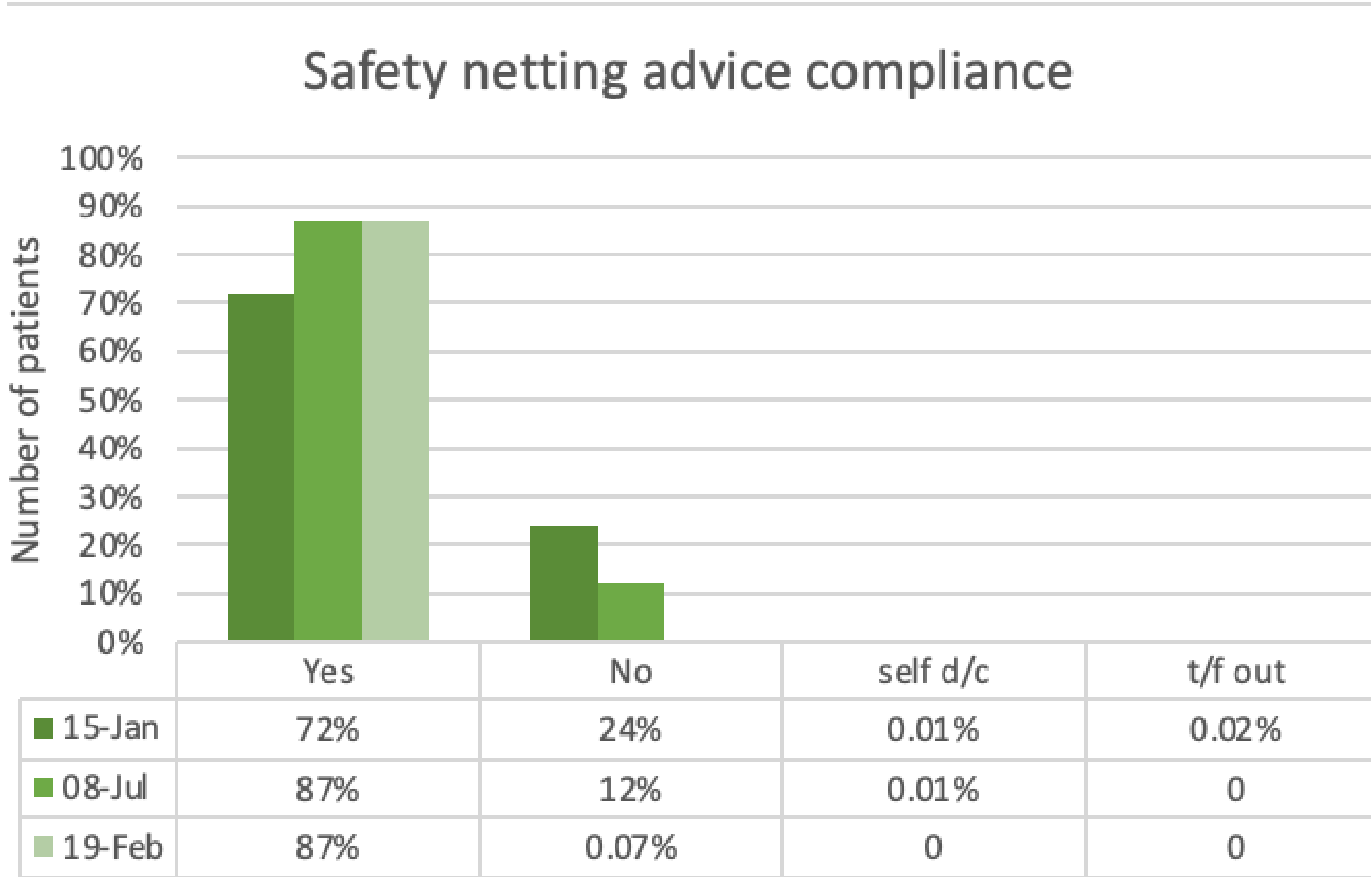
Cycle 2:

- Implementation of safety netting resources (Fig. 1), standardised autotext, and multilingual materials.
- Re-audit (85 records, July 2024; 75 records, Jan 2025).
- Repeat survey (Dec 2024–Jan 2025) with improved multilingual access.

Study: Data analysis to assess compliance rates and patient feedback.

Act: Presentation of findings at the local clinical governance meeting, parental and clinician survey on safety netting patient information leaflet and staff training.

Results

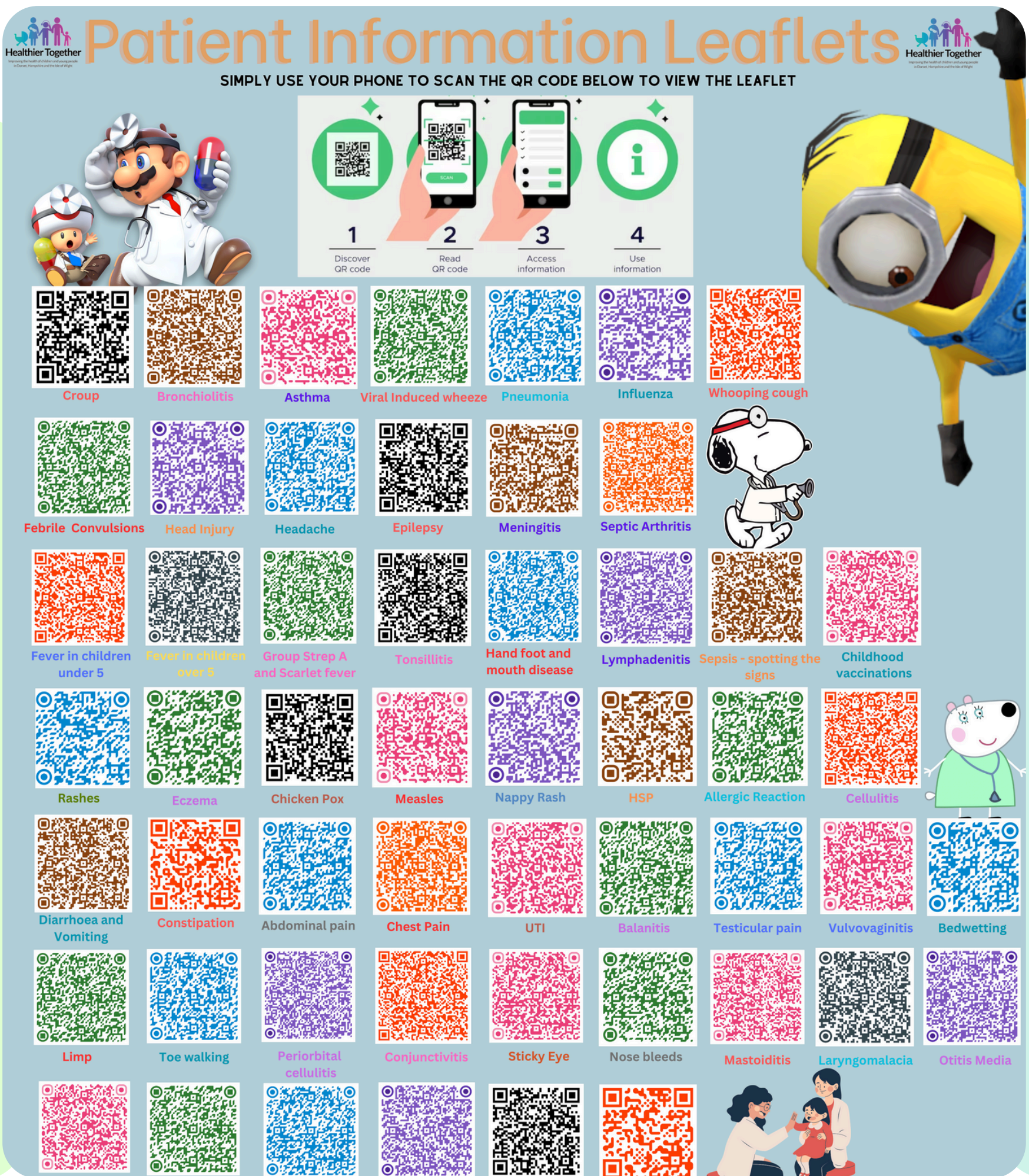


100% of patient's felt that the safety netting advice provided from 'Healthier Together' was useful.

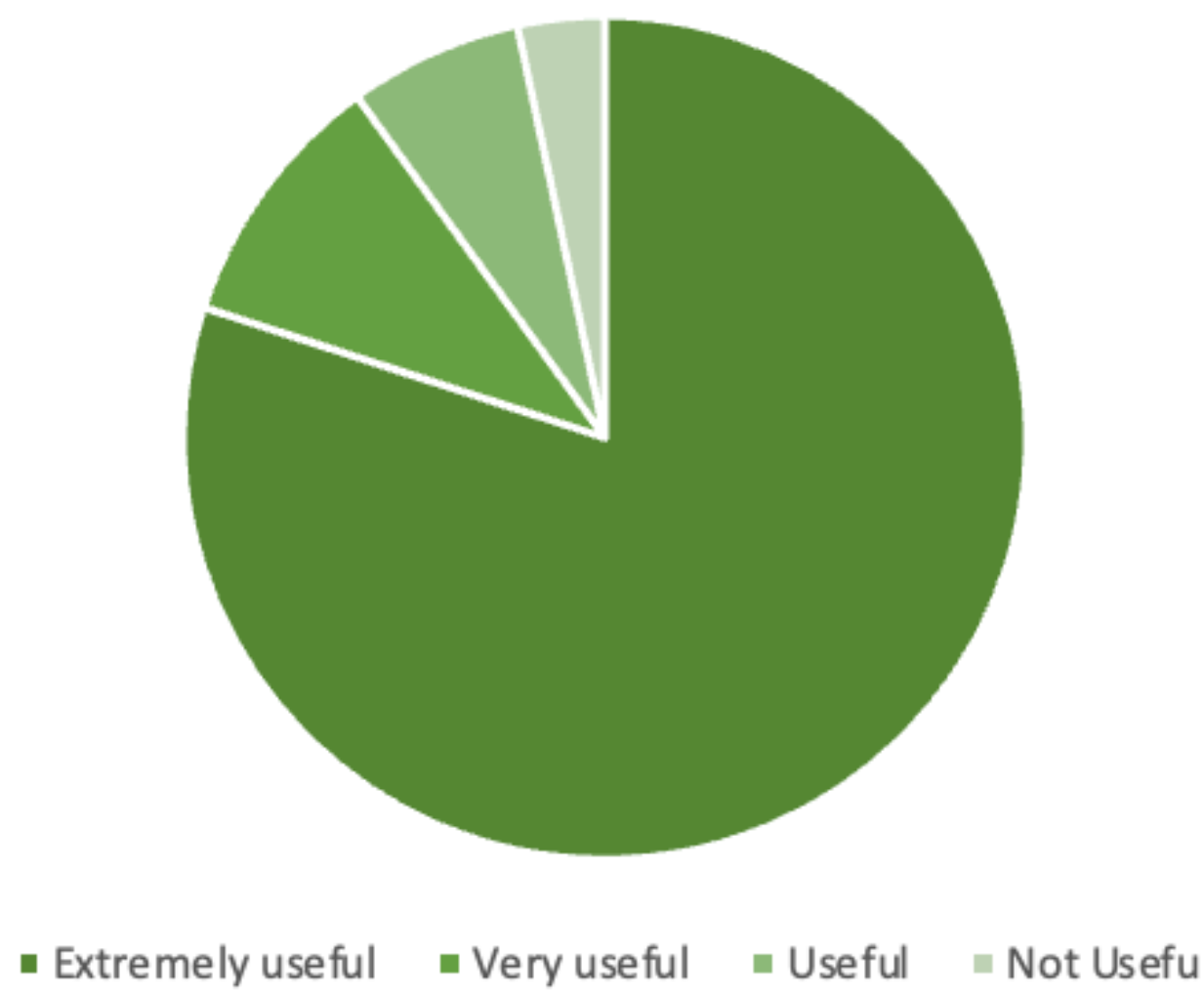
Only **6%** had documented provision of a healthier together leaflet in the discharge summary.

9% had used the standardised auto text which was recently implemented.

Figure 1.



Did you find the QR code poster useful?



Recommendations

Increase training and uptake of standardised auto text in CERNER.

Ensure all patients receive language-appropriate safety netting advice before discharge.

Integrate safety netting resources, including "Healthier Together" tools and leaflets, into routine discharge procedures.

Continuously assess the impact of interventions and refine strategies to optimise safety netting delivery.

Conclusions

Compliance with RCPCH standards and parental surveys responses showed improved safety netting practices following interventions.

The QR code poster was positively received, and in particular improved the use of multilingual resources. The use of a standardised auto text remain lows.

Gaps remain in resource distribution and standardisation of structured safety netting practices.