

# **How do Lawyers Assist their Clients with Advance Care Planning?**

## **Findings from a Cross-Sectional Survey of Lawyers in Alberta**

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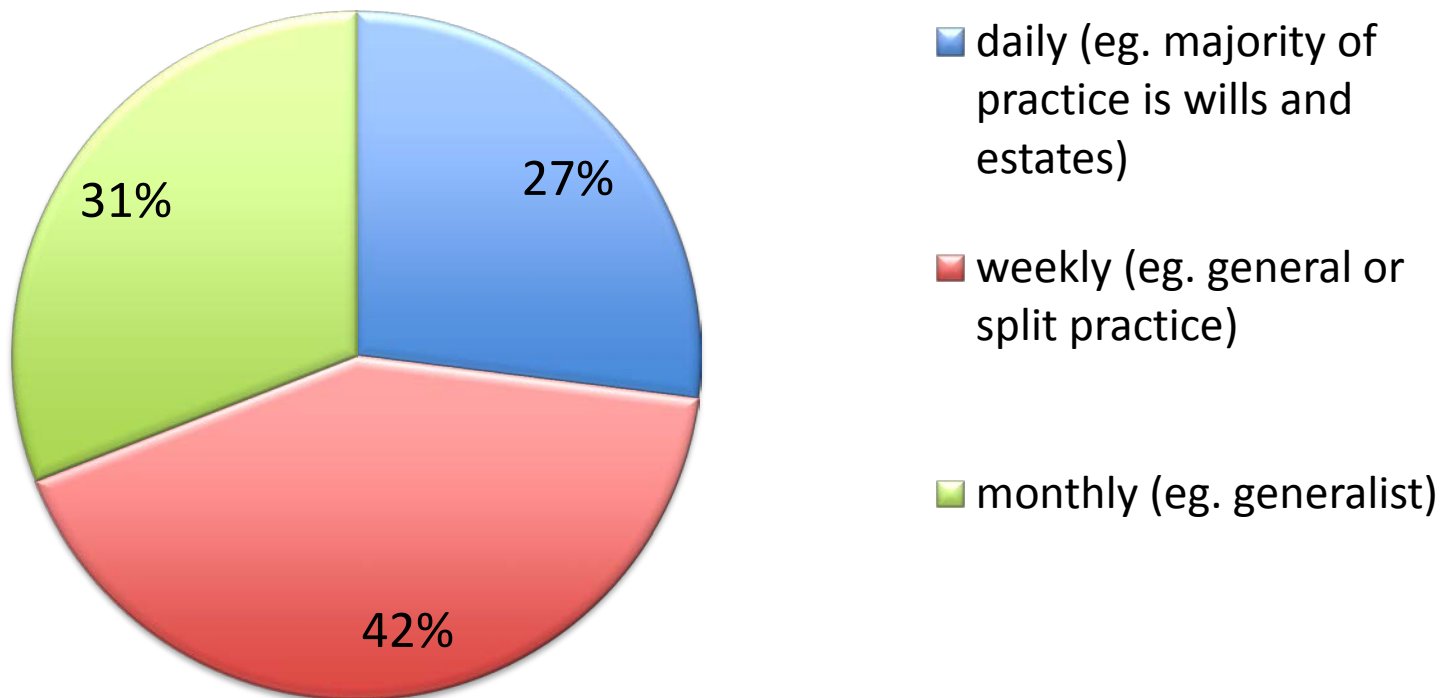
# Why Survey Lawyers about ACP?

- People with directives more likely to have received help from a lawyer than a doctor
- Lawyers viewed as helpful sources of advice about how to plan for future health care
- Almost no research on lawyers' attitudes, beliefs and practices in this important area

- February – June 2016
- 133 respondents, 104 completed in full
- Experiences and current practices
- Barriers
- Perception of Value and Professional Role
- Resources
- Demographics
  - size of practice, number of years, frequency of ACP work, main practice areas

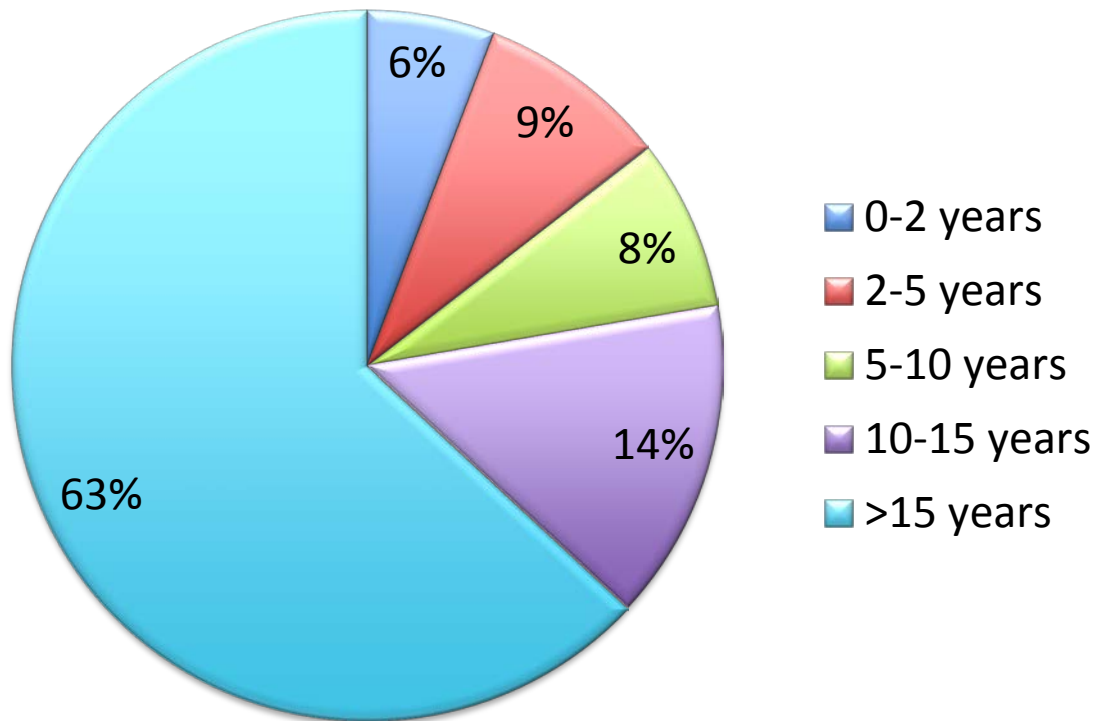
# Frequency of assistance with ACP

## Frequency that lawyers assist clients with ACP



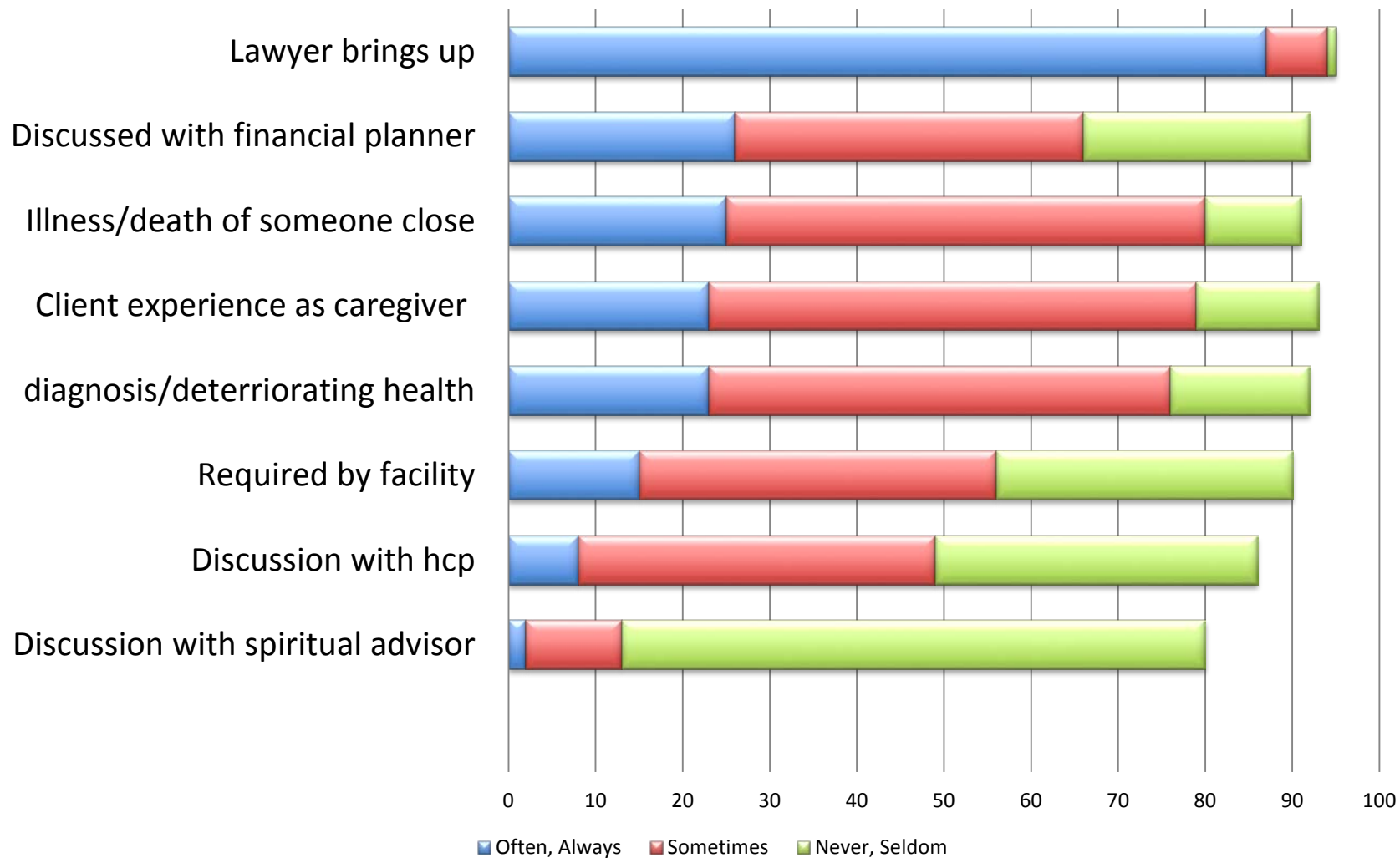
# Demographics – Years of Practice

**Years of Practice**

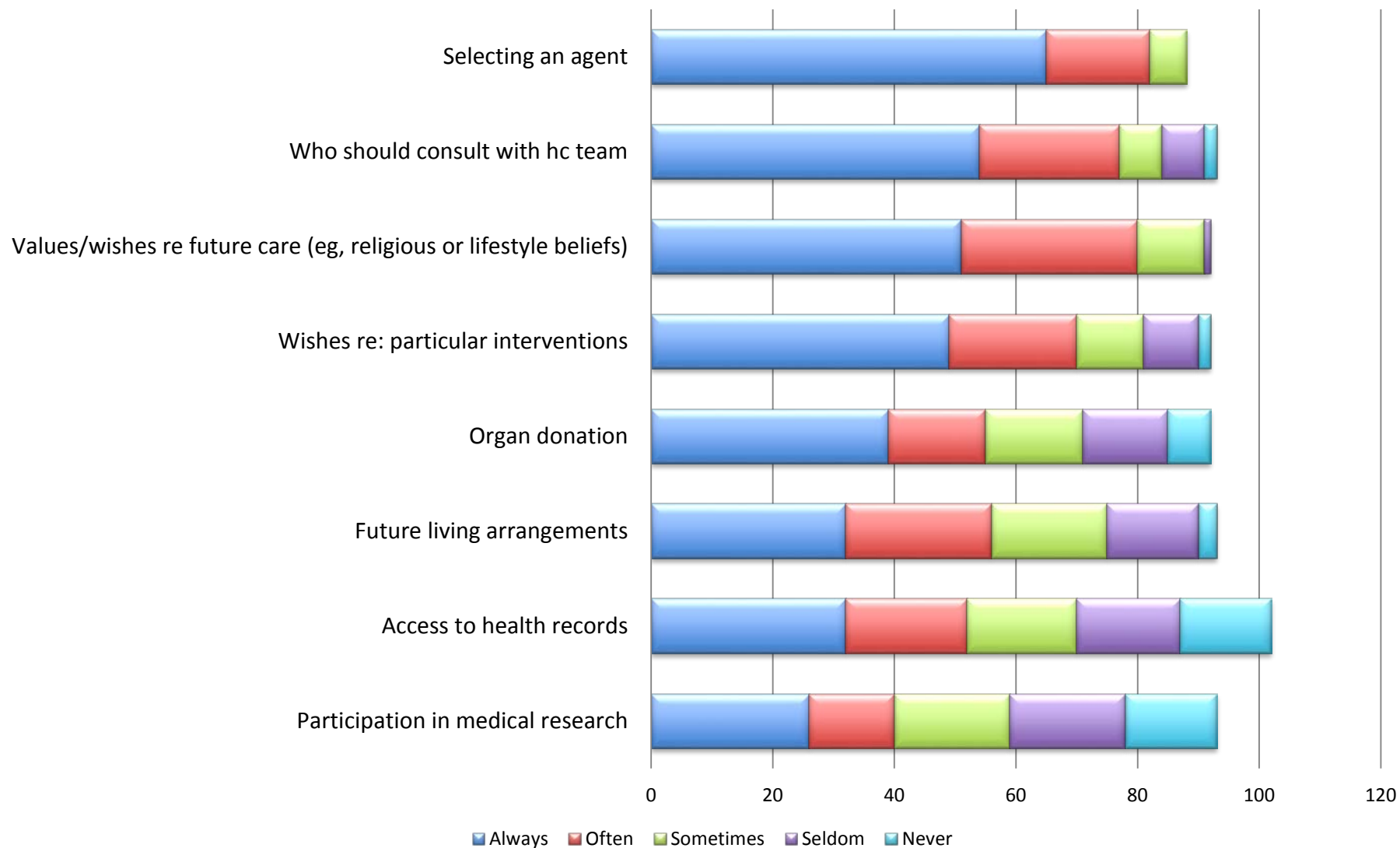


Years	n	%
0-2	6	5.8
2-5	9	8.7
5-10	8	7.8
10-15	15	14.6
>15	65	63.1
	130	100

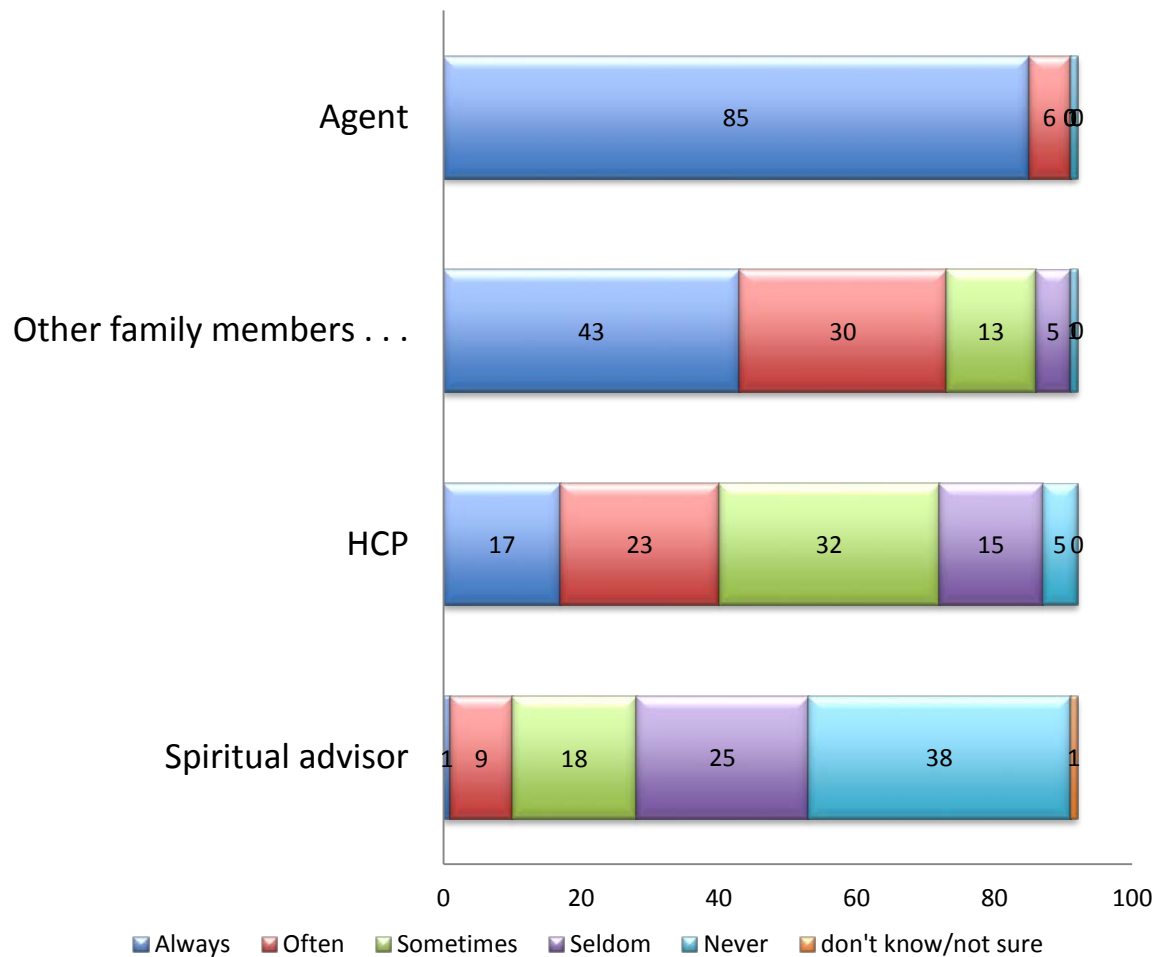
# What prompts client's desire to engage in ACP?



# What do lawyers and clients discuss?



# Lawyers encourage conversations with ...

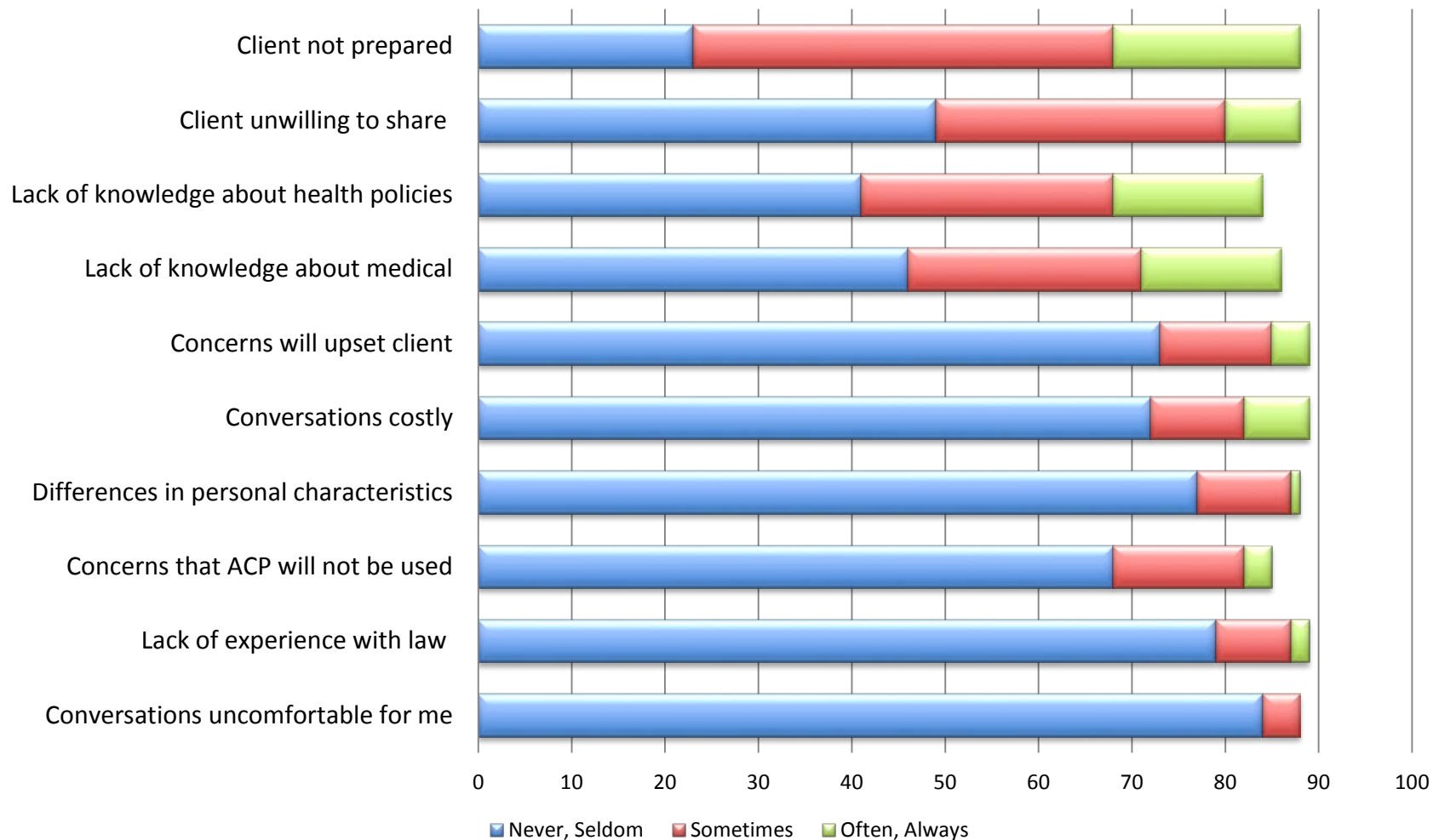


	Spirit. Adv.	HCP	Other family members ...	Agent
Always	1	17	43	85
Often	9	23	30	6
Sometimes	18	32	13	0
Seldom	25	15	5	0
Never	38	5	1	1
Don't know/not sure	1	0	0	0
Total	92	92	92	92

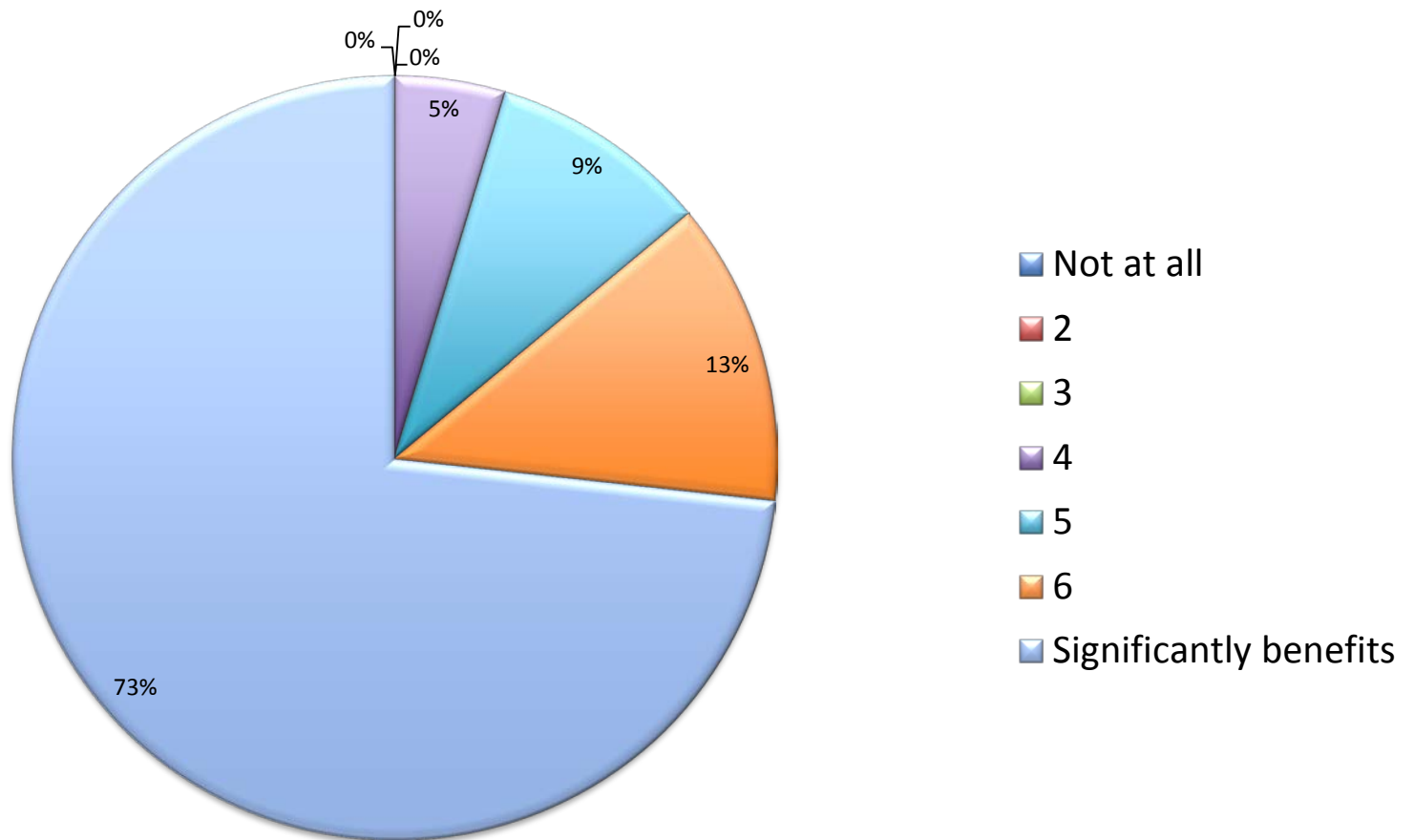


# Barriers to assisting with ACP

## Barriers to assisting with ACP



# Belief that ACP Benefits Clients



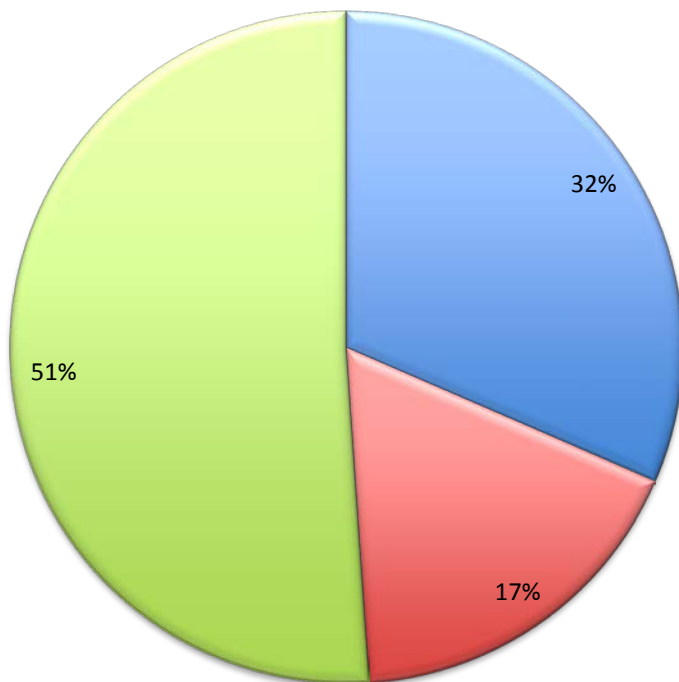
# Lawyer's Role in ACP



# Knowledge of GCDs and Greensleeves

## Know what GCD is?

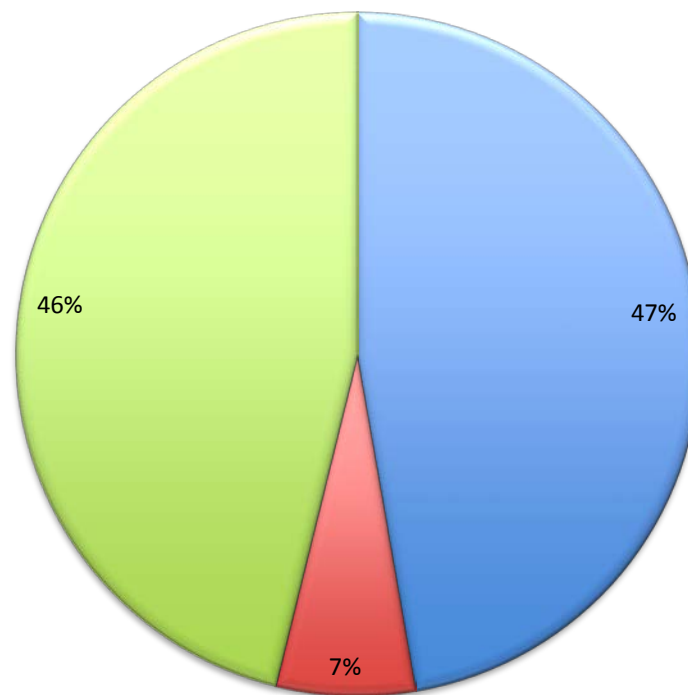
■ No 
 ■ Unsure 
 ■ Yes 
 ■ (blank)



Medical order that communicates general intent of care and directions on specific interventions

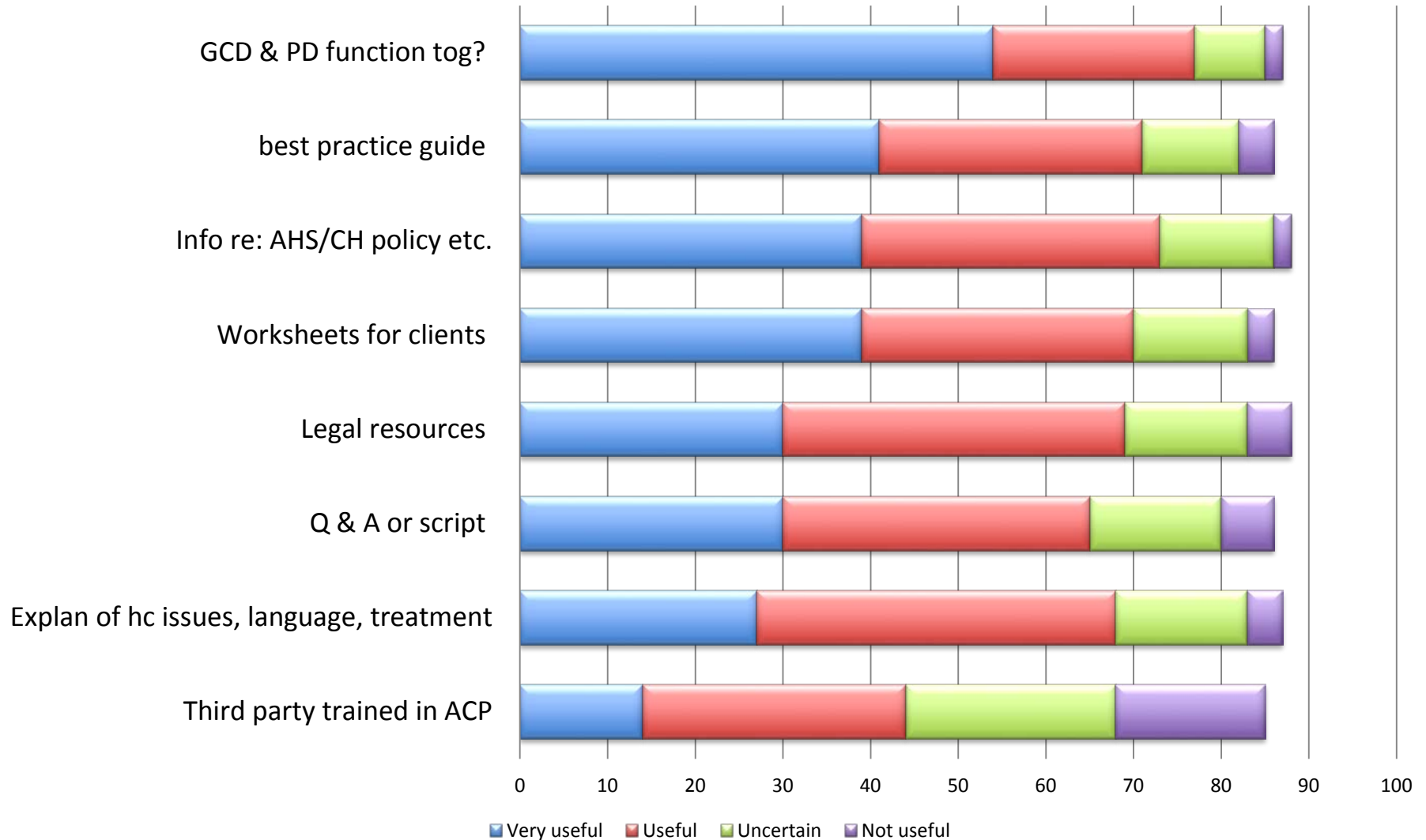
## Know what Greensleeve is?

■ No 
 ■ Unsure 
 ■ Yes 
 ■ (blank)



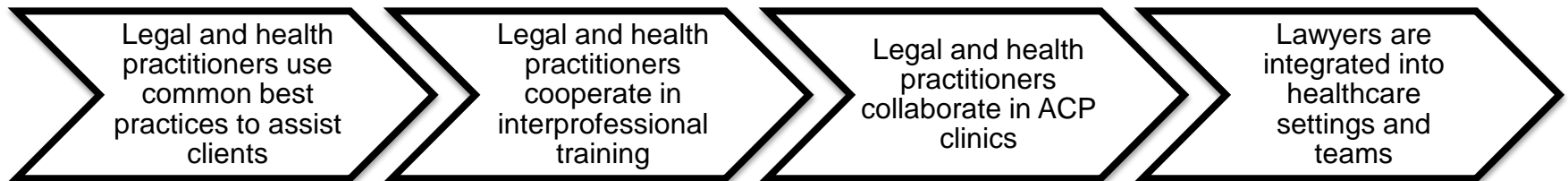
Green plastic folder for storing ACP documents, available from healthcare providers

# Need for new resources?



- Overcoming professional siloes
  - time, cost, professional role perceptions
  - but motivation to provide the best for clients/patients

## Framework for health-legal collaboration



**Goal of ACP is not simply talking and documenting, but ensuring future care accords with the client's values, wishes and preferences**

**Questions? Thank you and happy holidays!**