

Introduction

The care of neurosurgical spine patients often involves a multi-disciplinary team, including neurosurgery residents, hospitalists, nursing staff, and physical/occupational therapists.

Oftentimes, post-op spine patients are on a non-neurosurgical service (hospitalist, MICU/SICU, medicine), who are provided with scant sign out on the procedure(s) performed.

The treatment team(s) that are helping manage patient care post-operatively are often unaware of the procedure performed, and what are the salient clinical signs/symptoms, radiographic findings, and laboratory values that need to be closely monitored

How satisfied are you with the signout you receive on post-op patients?

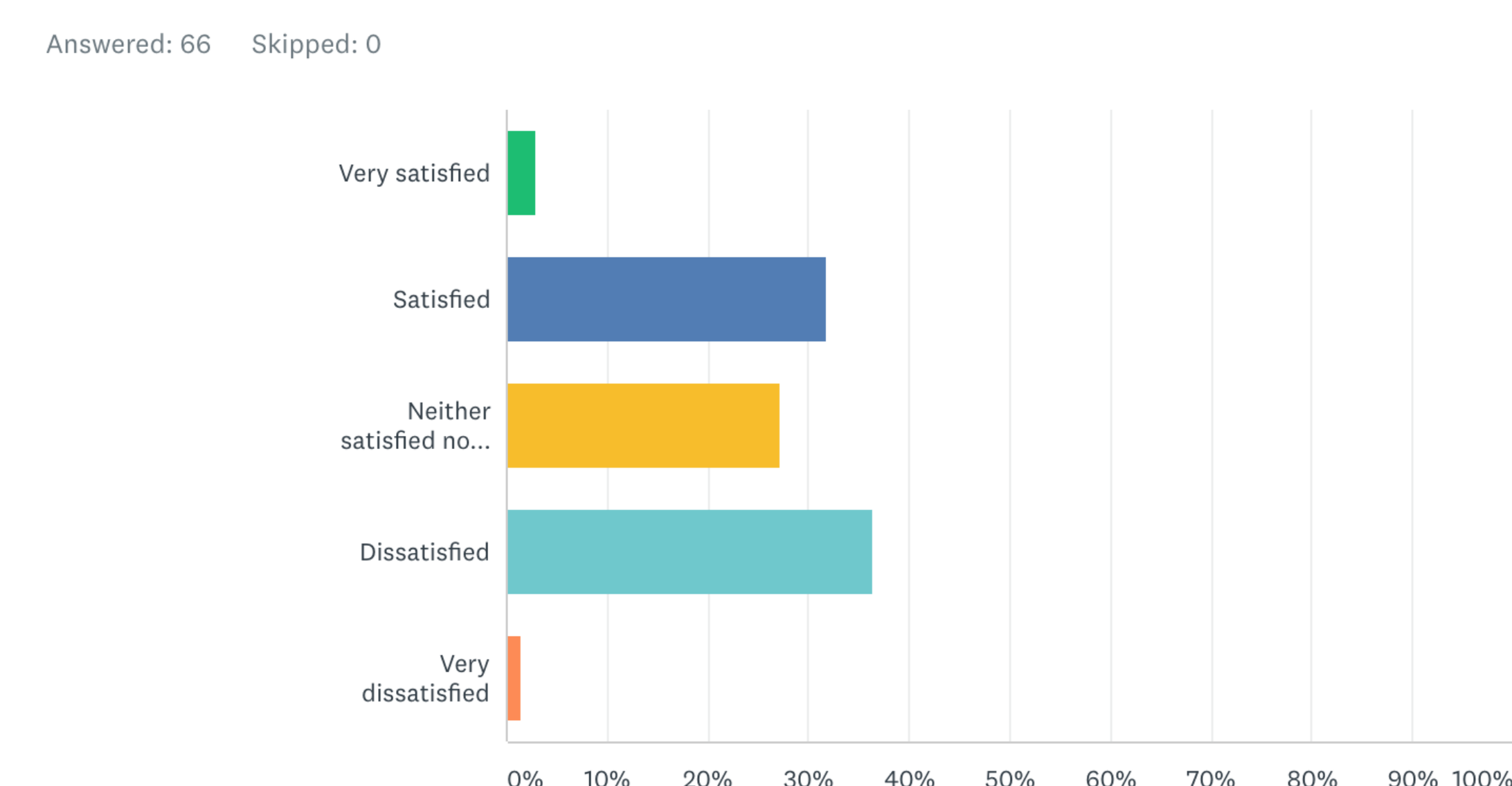


Figure 1: Over 50% of respondents say that they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, or dissatisfied, with the sign out they receive on post-op patients.

Methods

A 10-question survey was created and sent to healthcare providers (attending, residents, and nursing staff from the NICU and INICU at Gibbon) who routinely help care for and help manage spine patients

The survey was aimed at gauging the level of satisfaction of sign out they receive on post-operative patients, and where they would like to see improvement.

Using the information gathered, a post-op check note template was created for EPIC, which has salient information contained to help improve communication between treatment teams.

This template was evaluated and refined by a multi-disciplinary team, including including neurosurgery residents, Farber hospitalists, and nursing leadership.

A post-operative note template on EPIC developed by a multidisciplinary team of healthcare providers who help manage and care for patients at Gibbon. The (***) denotes portions of the post-op note template that will need to be filled in manually by the resident completing the form.

Neurosurgery Post-Op Check Note

(Patient name) is a (age) year old (male/female) presenting with (***) signs/symptoms // clinical/radiographic findings).

(He/She) is now status post (***) procedure performed).

Drains: (***)

Post-op exam:

	Deltoid	Biceps	Triceps	Wrist extensor	Finger flexors	Hand intrinsic
Right	***	***	***	***	***	***
Left	***	***	***	***	***	***

	Iliopsoas	Quadriceps	Tibialis anterior	EHL	Gastroc
Right	***	***	***	***	***
Left	***	***	***	***	***

Post-op imaging: (***)

Pain control: (***)

Brace / Activity restrictions: (***)

Blood pressure (MAP) parameters: (***)

Diet: (***)

Foley: (***) (yes/no, and include when to d/c)

Antibiotics: (***)

Post-op consult services: (***)

DVT prophylaxis: (***)

Results

A total of 66 healthcare providers completed the 10-question survey that was sent out (6 NICU attendings, 12 Farber Hospitalists, 16 NICU nurses, and 32 INICU spine unit nurses).

How often do you read the post-op check progress notes written for post-op patients by the neurosurgery resident?

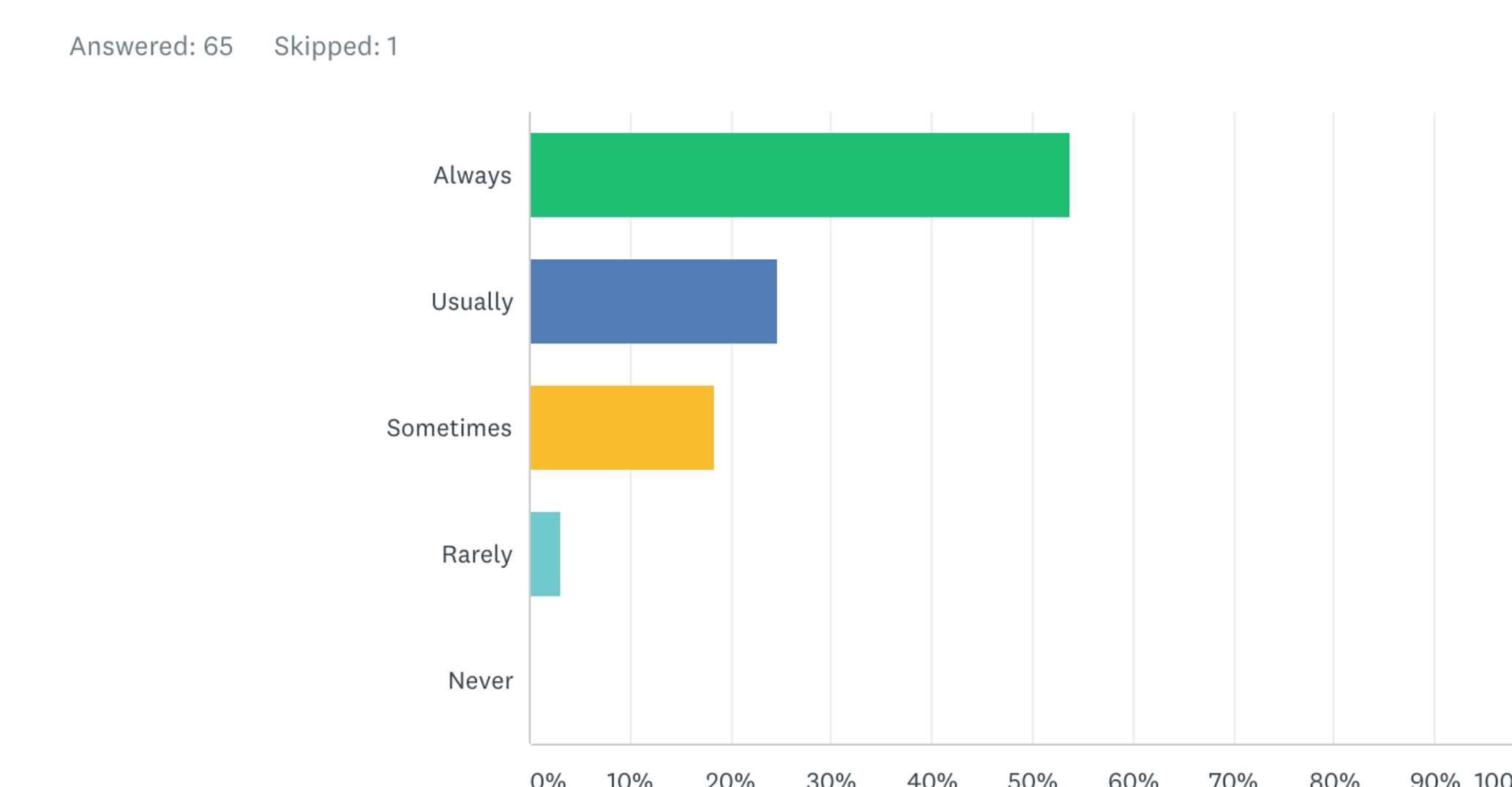


Figure 2: The vast majority of providers (nurses & attendings) have already made it a habit to read the post-op check notes written on patients, in order to get a sense of what surgery was performed and what considerations need to be made on these patients given their neurological symptoms and associated health conditions.

How useful do you think it would be if residents wrote a detailed, systems-based post-op note, and would you be inclined to use it as a reference to help guide post-operative care during their hospital stay?

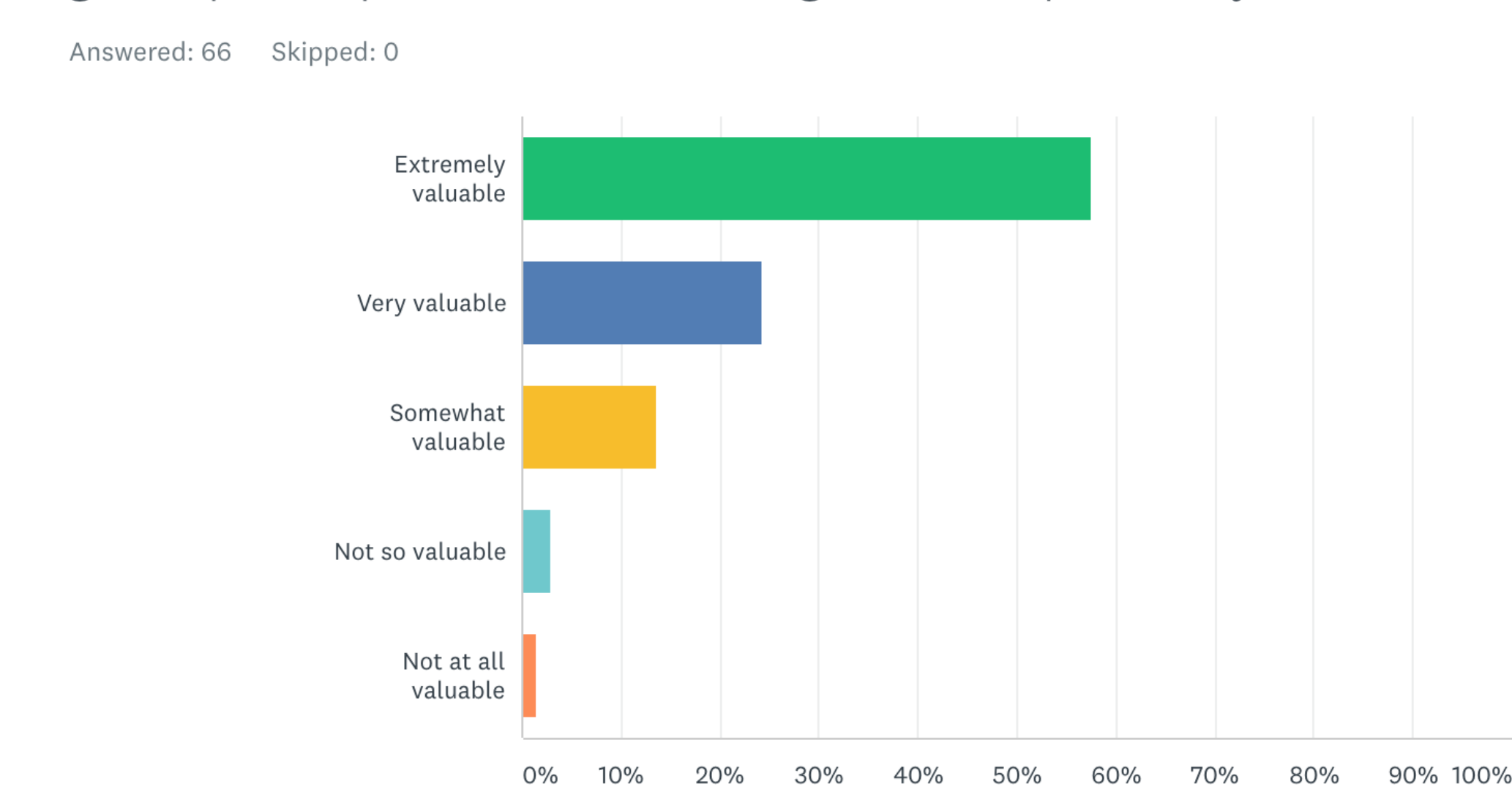


Figure 3: The vast majority of respondents feel like a standardized and organized post-op check note would go a long way to address the perioperative concerns for each patient, which are often unique to each patient given the surgery they have had as well as any their medical co-morbidities.

Conclusions

A post-operative note template that includes pertinent sign out items that go beyond only documenting a physical exam will provide better communication between treatment teams, and allow for the early identification and prompt treatment of any post-operative concerns as they may arise.

Future work on this project will involve assessing the degree of compliance by neurosurgical residents in completing post-operative notes on every patient.

Furthermore, another survey will be sent out to assess whether staff have better satisfaction after the implementation of the post-operative note template.