

# The Information-seeking Behavior of Physicians Regarding Benefits and Harms of Treatments at Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN).

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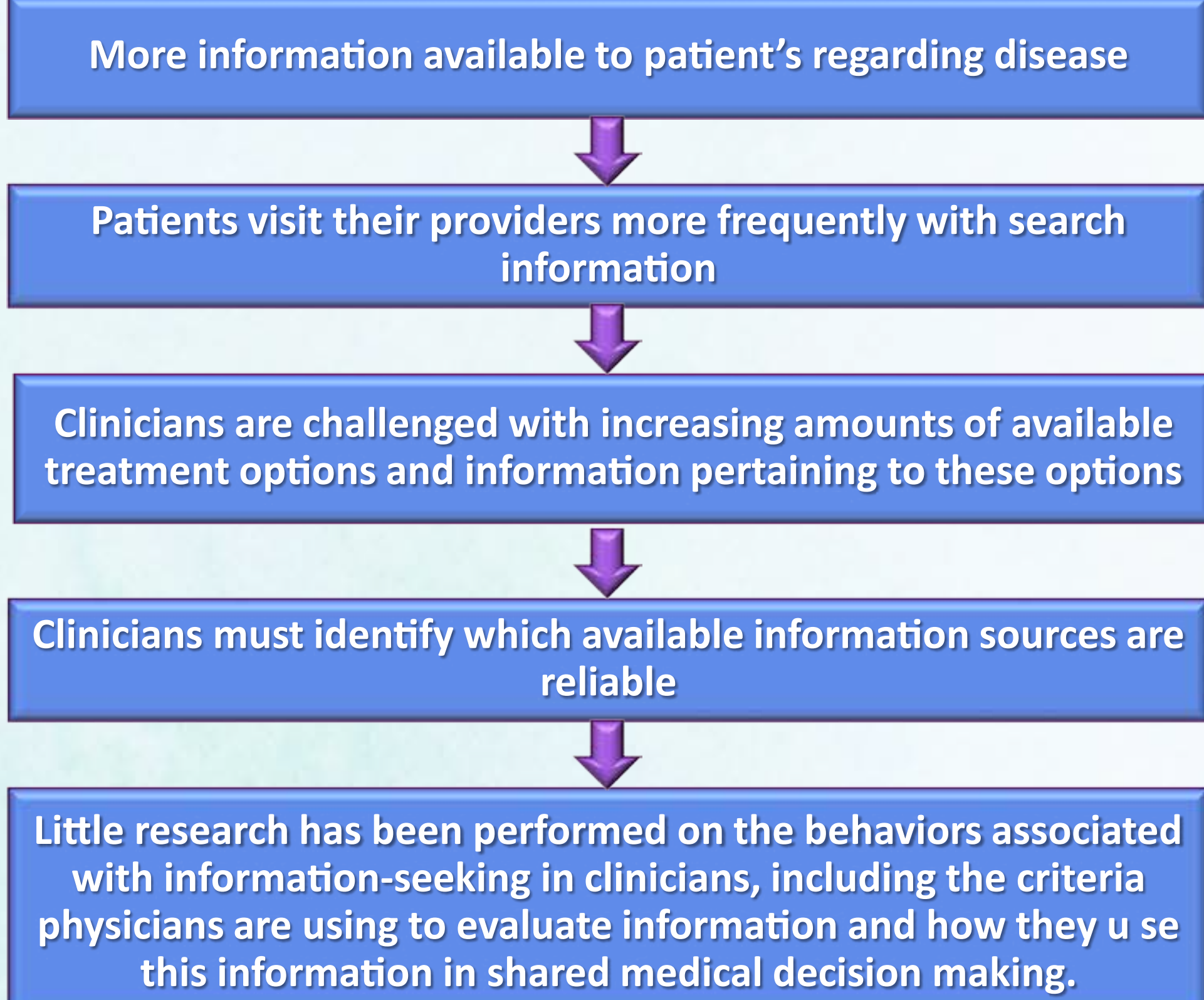


# The Information-seeking Behavior of Physicians Regarding Benefits and Harms of Treatments at Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN)

Samuel Reynolds, Rahul Mhaskar, MD, Brian Bennet, Randall Chan, Bryan G Kane, MD, FACEP  
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## Introduction

### Advent of Internet



## Problem Statement

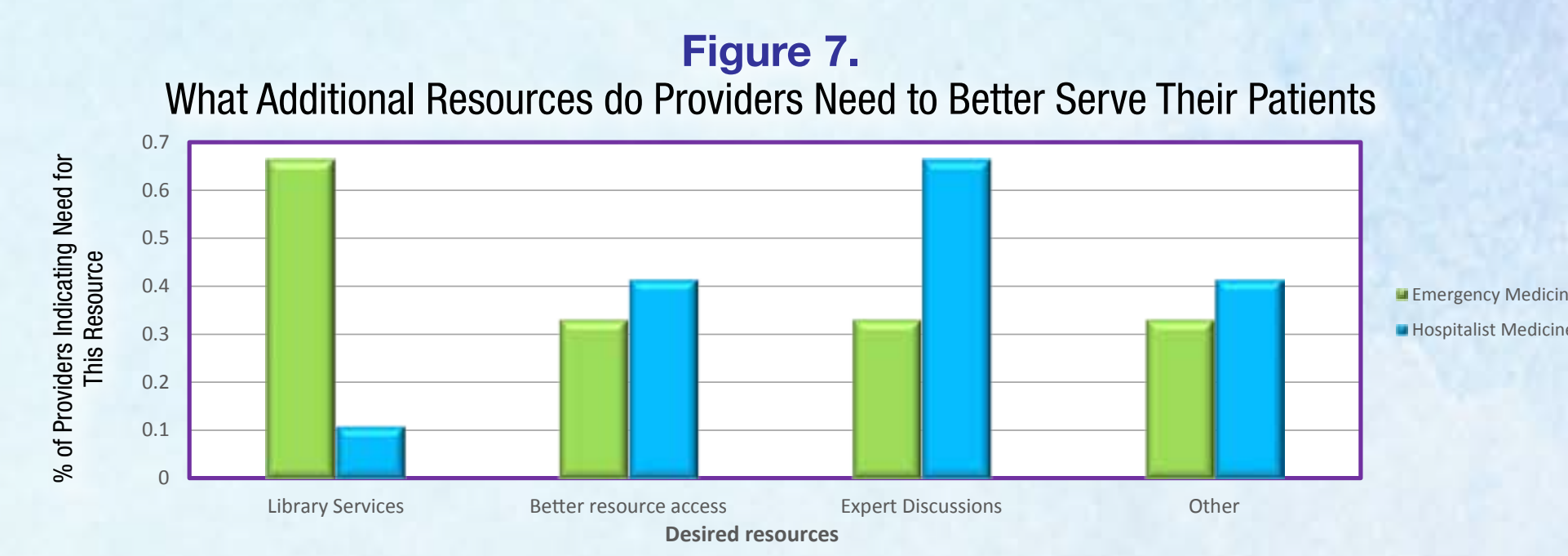
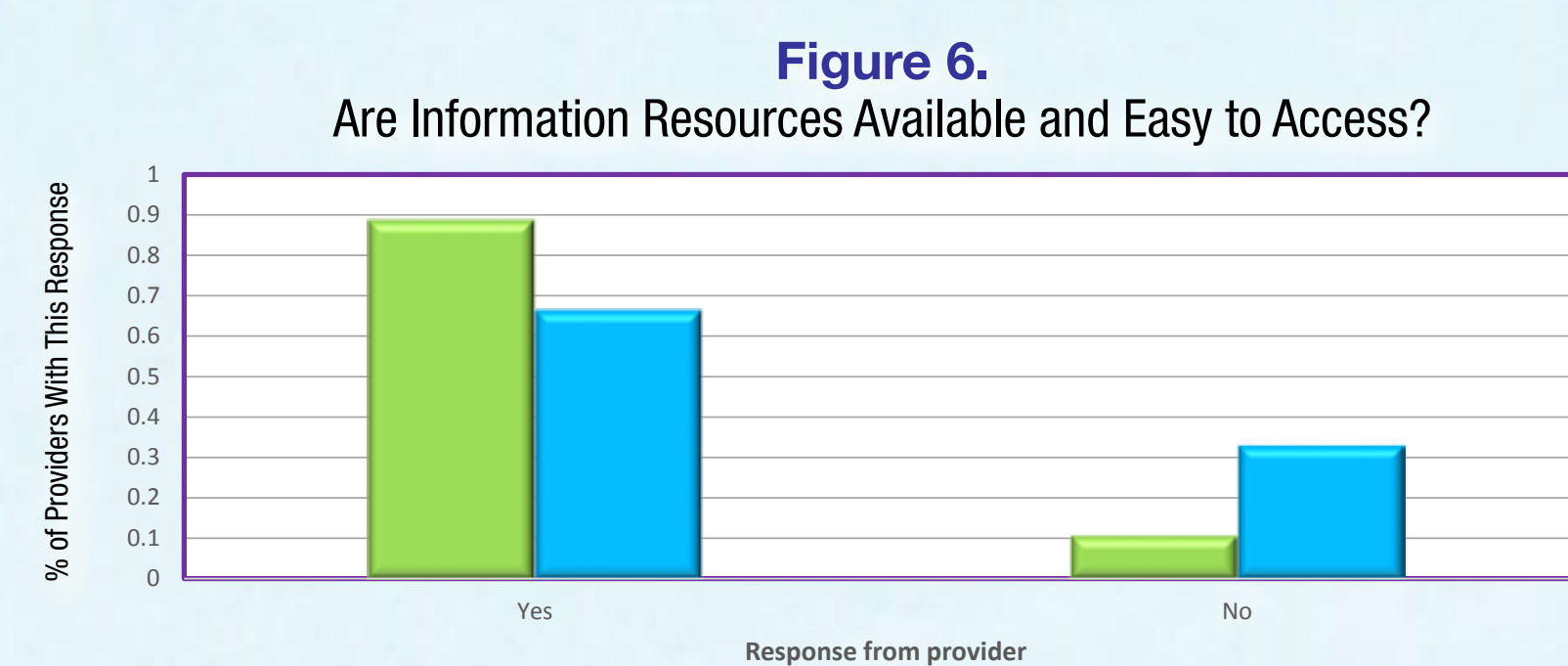
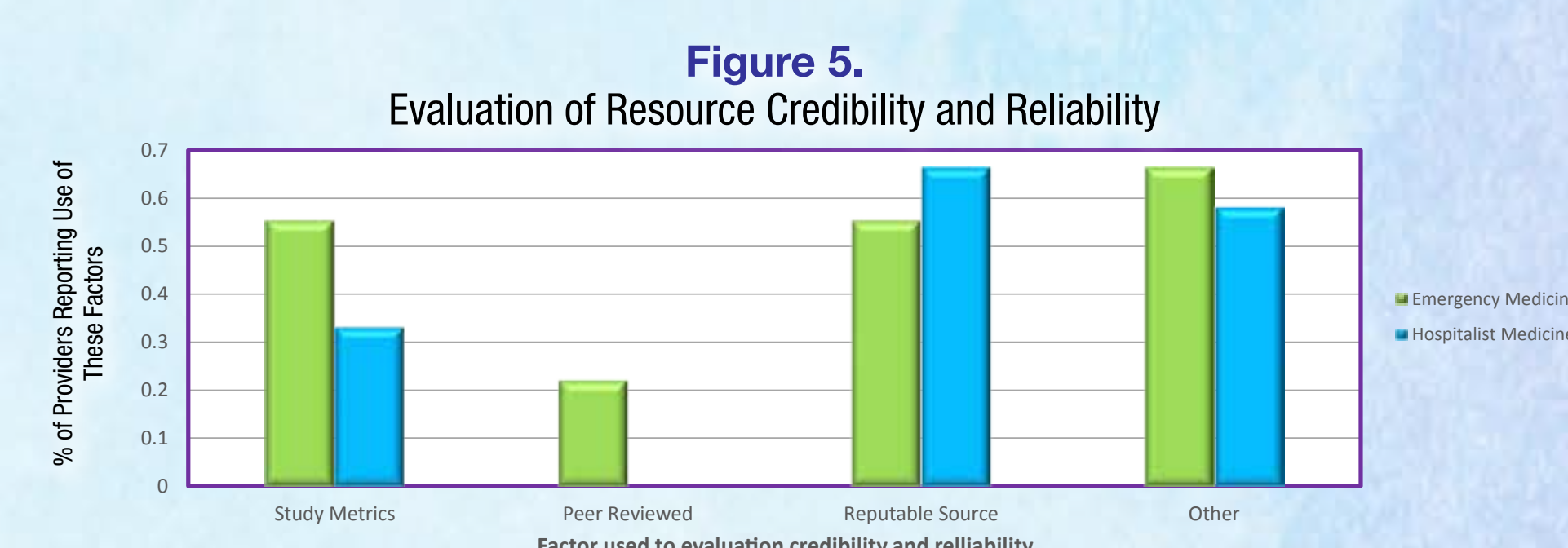
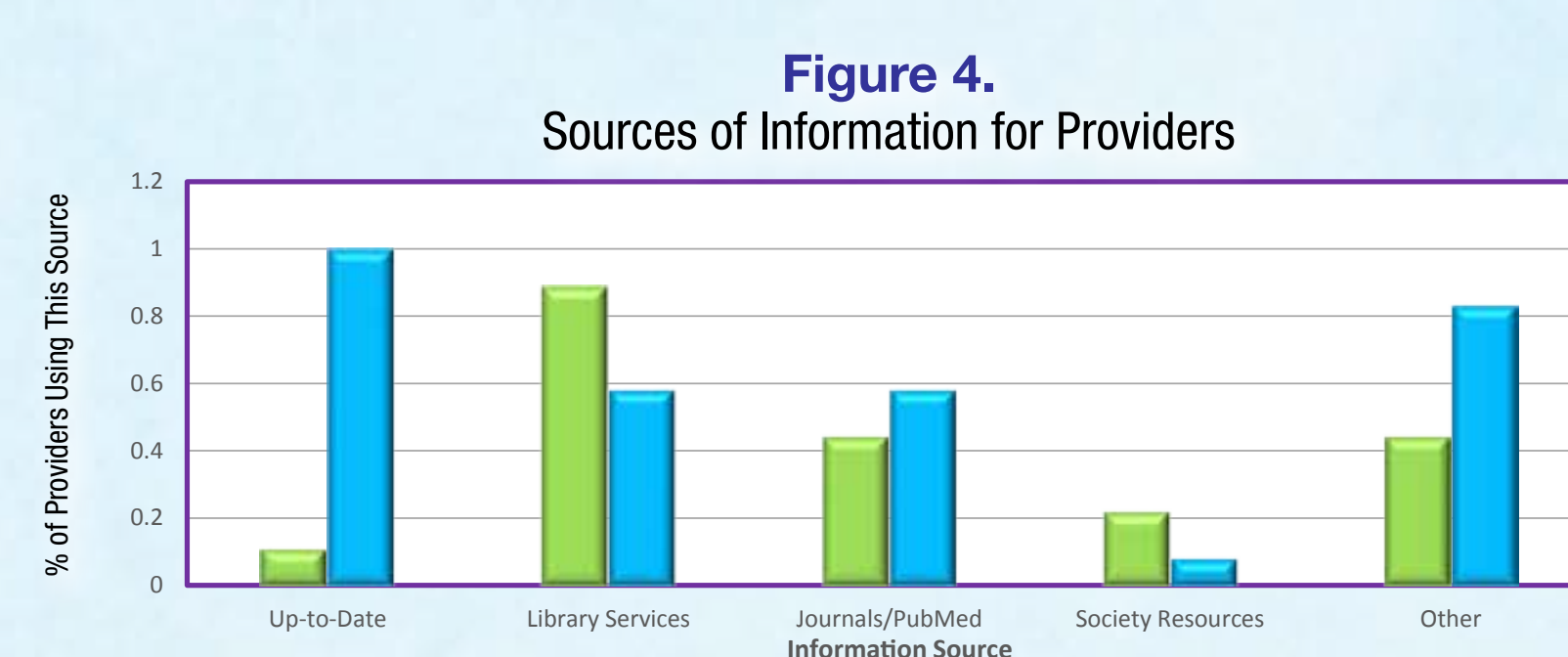
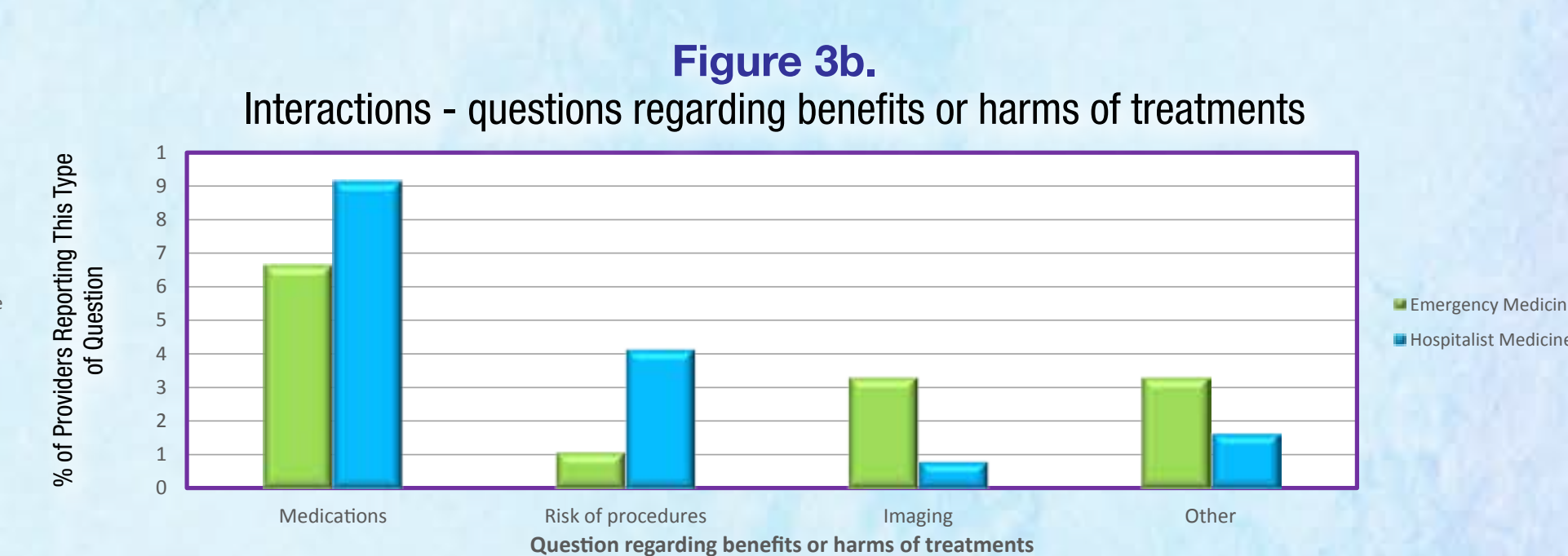
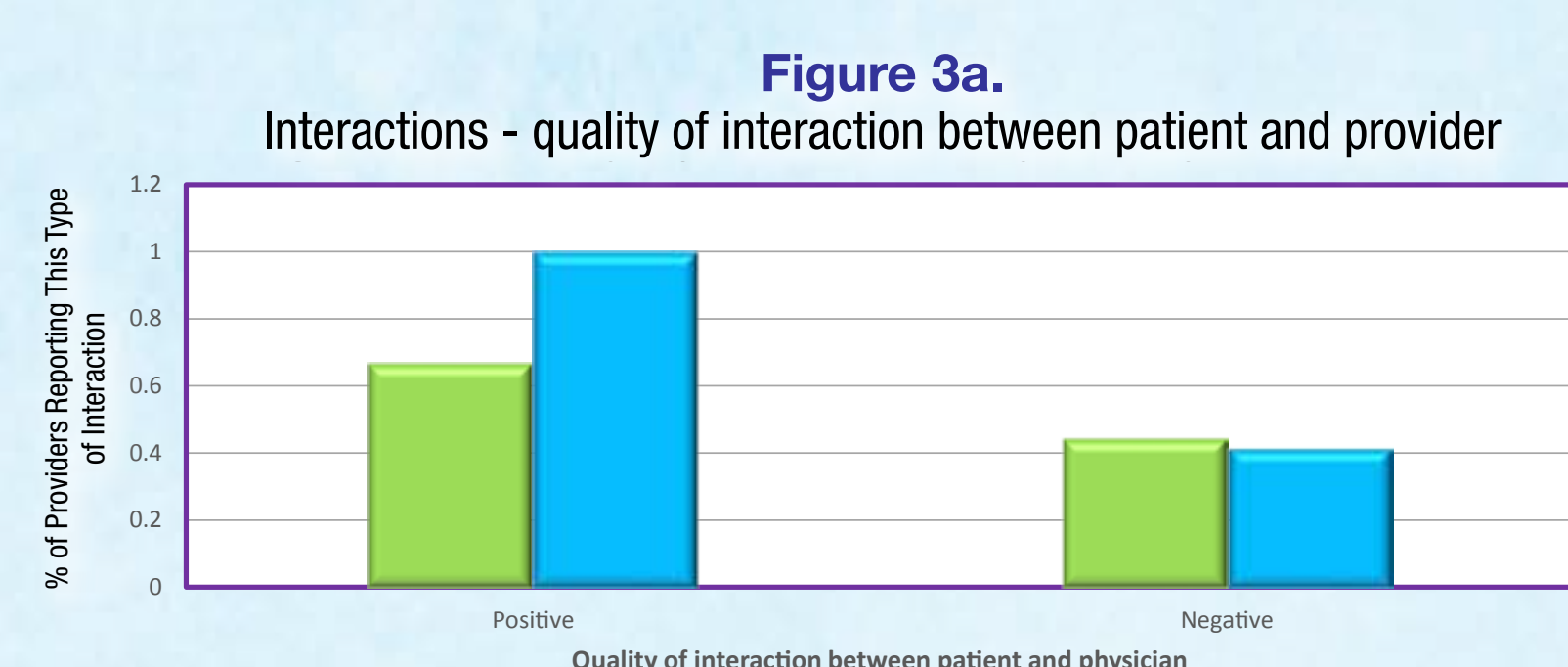
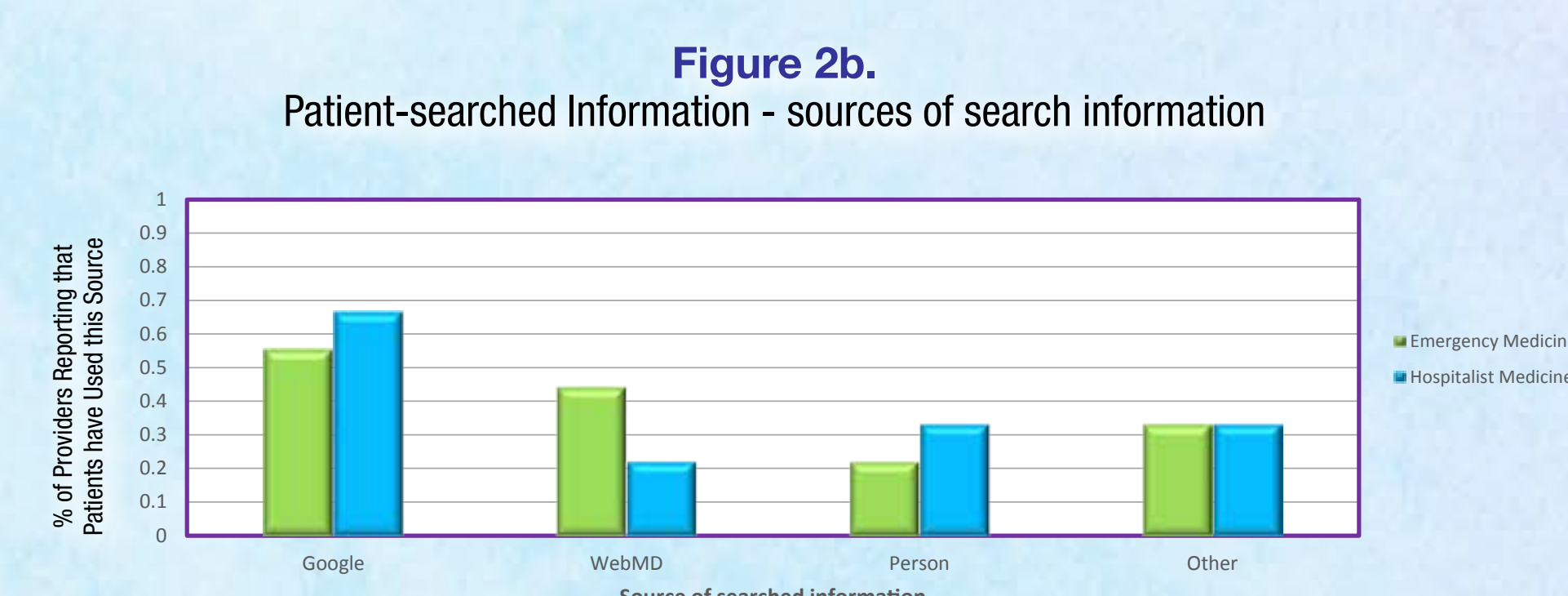
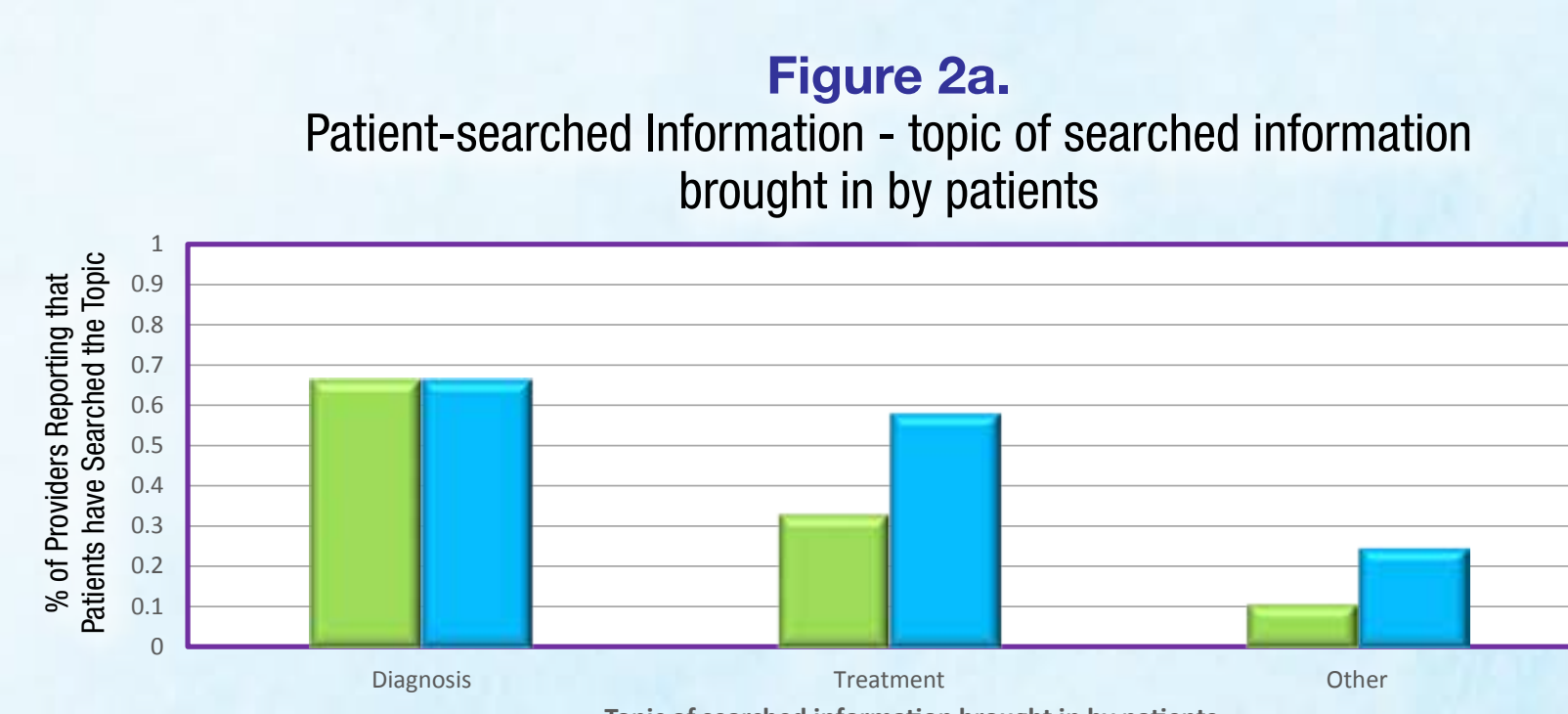
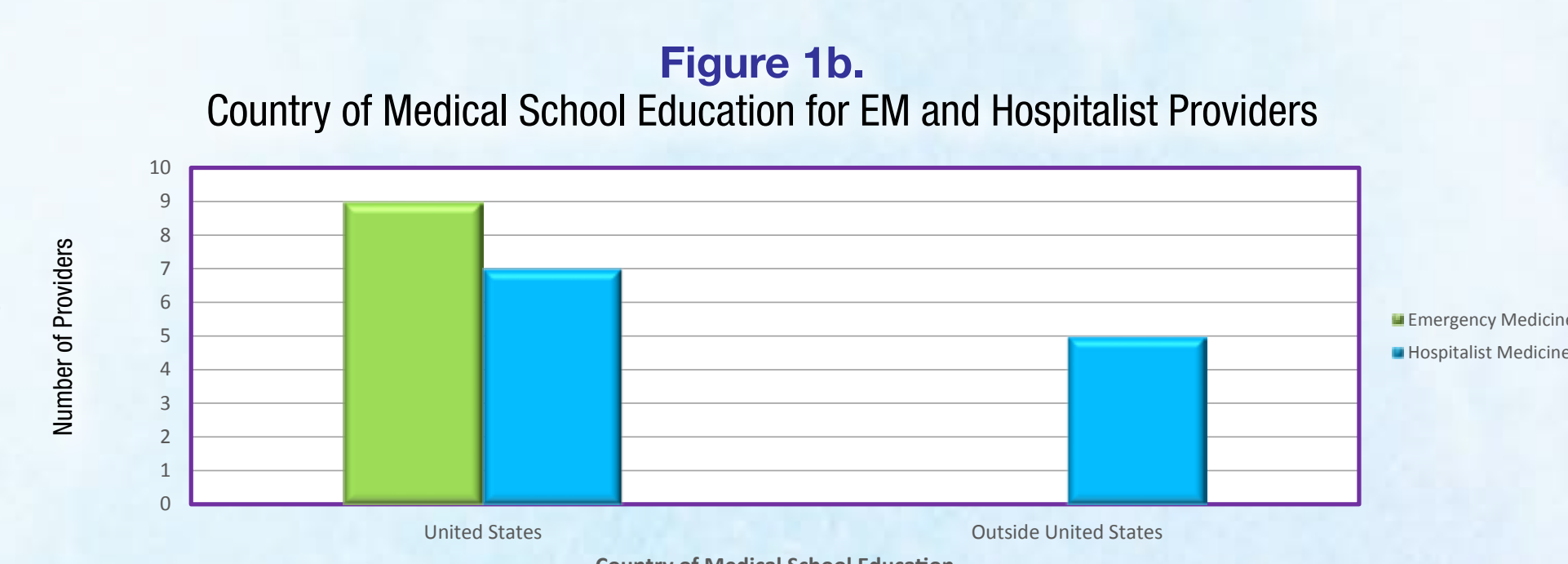
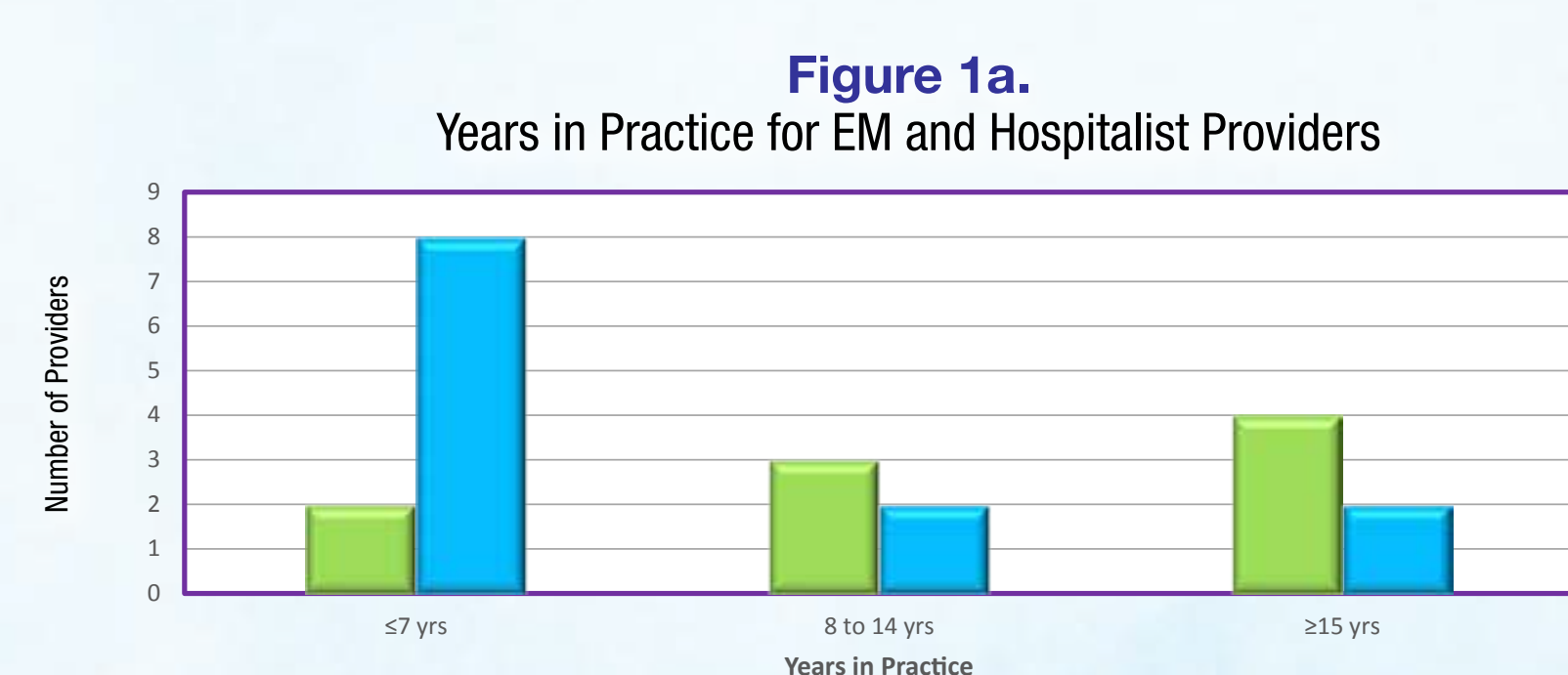
What are the information-seeking behaviors, factors associated with these behaviors, and perceptions regarding the reliability of resources of physicians at the Lehigh Valley Health Network?

## Methodology

- Grant funding and LVHN IRB approval
- Stratified and random purposive selecting techniques to separate full-time LVHN clinicians into strata based on specialty
  - Examples: family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics
- Qualitative, one-on-one interviews using open-ended questions, focused on patients' searched information and the process of physicians seeking information
- Transcription of interviews using thematic analysis
- Transcription analysis using ATLAS.ti and hand-coding
  - Content sampling to ensure inter-rater reliability (ideal agreement rate = 85%)
  - Determination of validity of transcriptions by peer debriefing among team members
- Assembly and interpretation of cumulative results so that trends may be analyzed and used to help create faculty development sessions

## Results

TITLE					
Interview Question	Years in Practice	What is the Average Number of Patients You See Every Month	What is the Average Number of Patients Per Month that Bring Along Searched Information During Visits	What is the Typical Source(s) of Information Patients Generally Bring During Visits? Can You Give an Example?	What is Your Reaction to Patients Bringing Searched Information During Consultation?
Emergency Physician	32	160	24	Internet-Google, WebMD	Positive reaction, creates opportunity for informed consent, understanding
Internal Medicine Physician	20	237	5-10% (Approx. 18)	Internet Sites - Wikipedia, Medscape	Depends on validity of concern - accepting if valid, dismissive if invalid
Interview Question	How Do You Determine the Credibility of the Information You Accessed on Benefits, Harms, and Treatments?	Do You Have any Preference for a Certain Information Resource?	Who Do You Prefer This (these) Specific Source(s)?	Do You Have the Resources to Access Your Desired Source?	How Do You Decide if the Resources You Accessed are Sufficient to Answer Patients' Queries?
Emergency Physician	Pepid - taken at face value, Ovid - see if articles have external and internal validity	Quick - Pepid, More information needed - Ovid-Medline	Varies - uses Pepid for quick information, Ovid-Medline for more in-depth	Yes	Pepid well-founded, will go back and think more if additional questions arise
Internal Medicine Physician	Trust Up-to-Date, but also trusts New England Journal of Medicine, Annals of Internal Medicine	Up-to-date	Resource critiqued, reviewed, updated	Yes	Personal review of the source, google for additional information



## Conclusions and Future Implications

- Two-part faculty development sessions
  1. Didactic session focused on the design of research questions and subsequent studies
  2. Hands-on training to address search and downloading internet-based evidence
- Publication of manuscript

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