

Primary Care Providers' Perspectives on Providing Follow-up Cancer Care: A Qualitative Analysis of Survivorship Care Plan Use



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Introduction

Cancer in Canada

- Mortality rates for cancer have declined²
- Number of cancer survivors have increased³
- Oncology specialists are unable to take on the estimated increase in oncology care needs⁴

Survivorship Care Plans (SCP)

- SCPs are tools recommended to successfully transition from the Cancer Centre to follow-up treatment in a primary care environment⁵

The Wellness Beyond Cancer Program

- Goal is to accurately match referrals to the most fitting care providers⁶
- SCPs are electronically composed by a registered nurse⁶
- Registered Nurse (RN) is responsible for the process of discharging the patient and transitioning them to the Primary Care Provider (PCP)⁶

PCPs perceptions

- Previous research indicated mixed results on how comfortable PCPs are with using SCPs^{7,8}

Introduction (cont.)

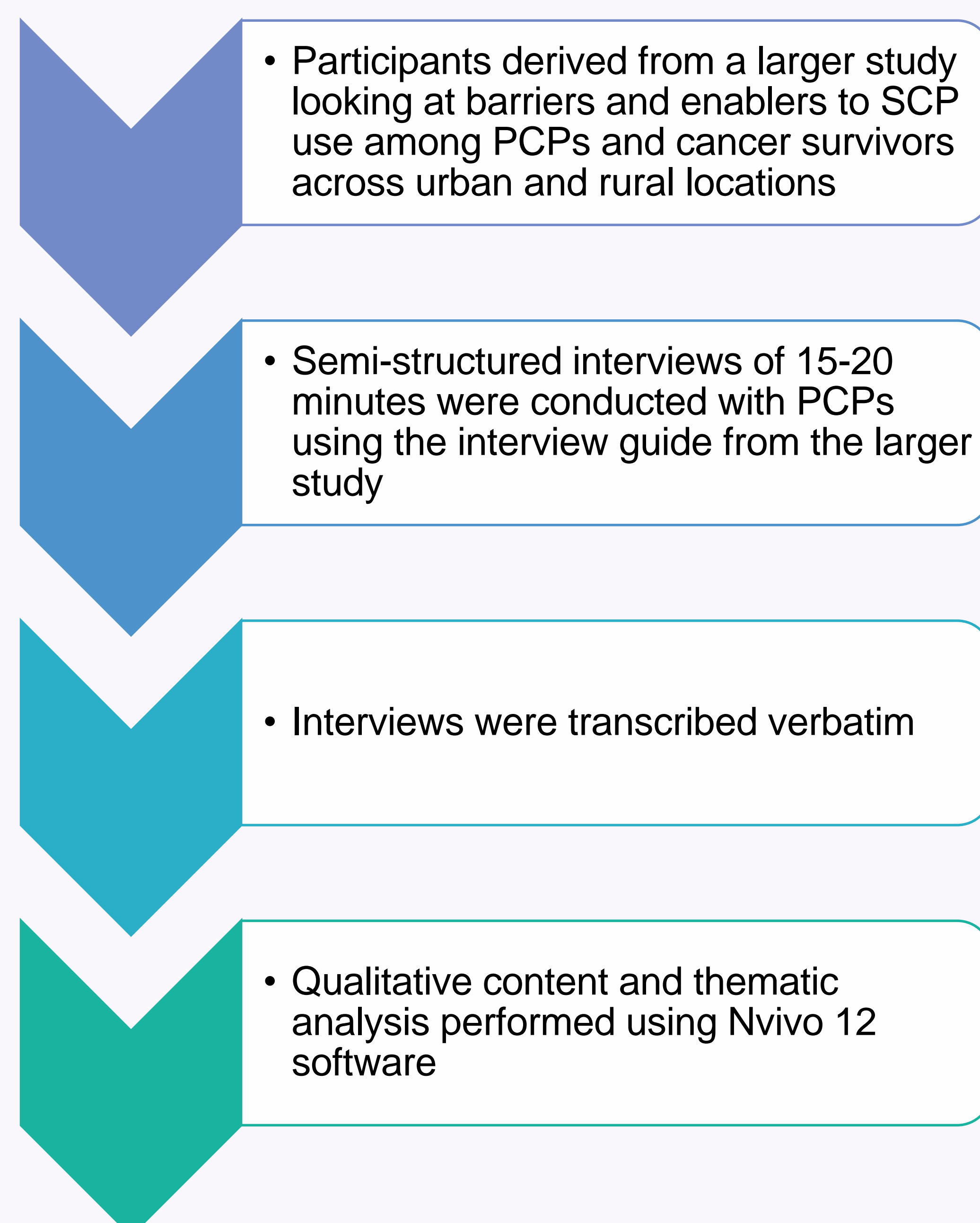
PCPs perceptions (cont.)

- Logistical and workload factors, navigating new role in providing follow-up care

Purpose

- Identify how PCPs perceive their new roles as providers of follow-up care while using SCPs

Methods



Results

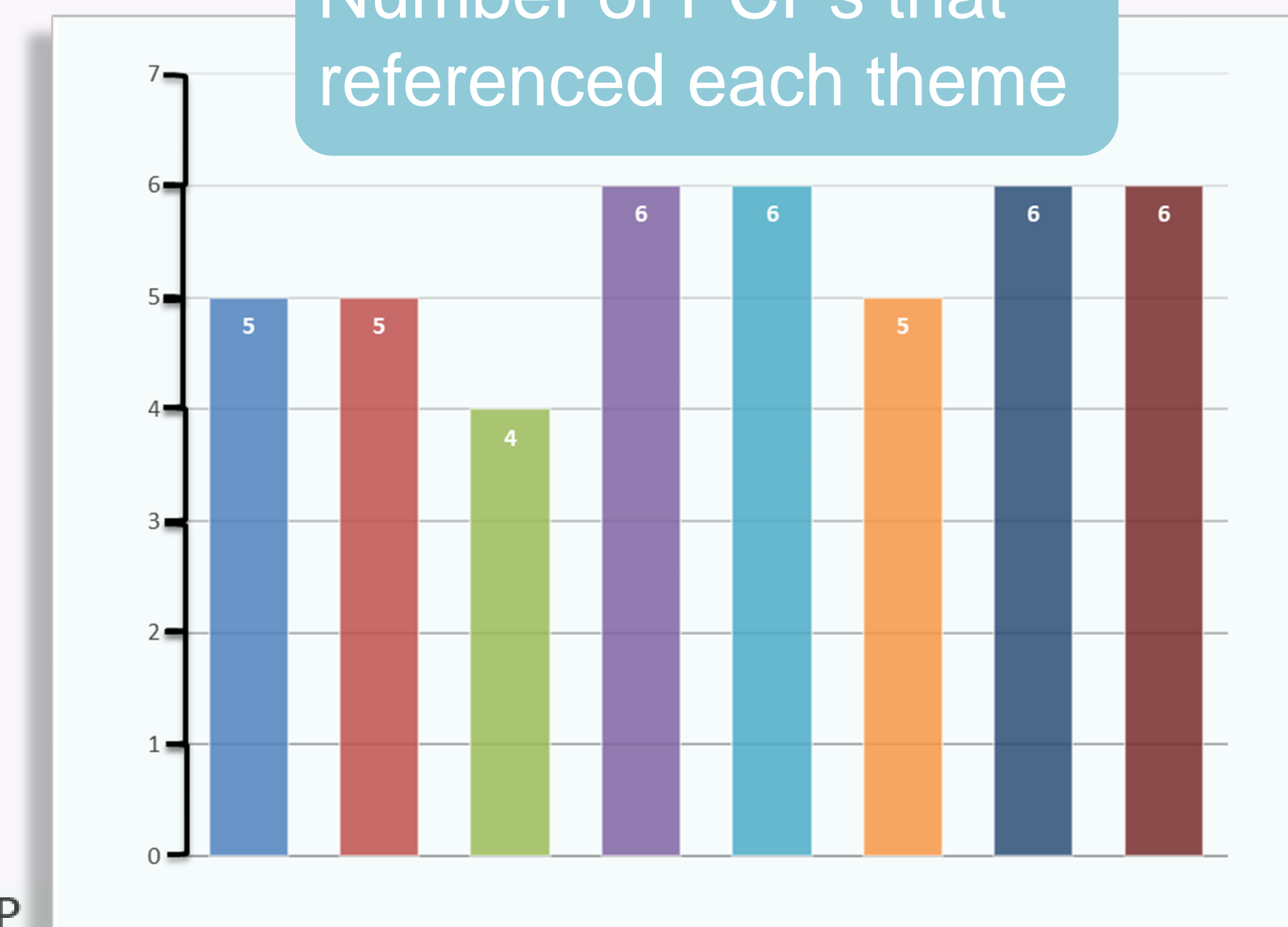
Participants

- Overall study sample size 10+3
 - ❖ As study is ongoing only 6 PCPs were interviewed
 - ☐ n = 2 female
 - ☐ n = 4 male

Legend

- Update recommendations in follow-up care/ SCP
- Communications issues leads to increased workload
- Emotional experience of PCPs
- PCP's use of the SCP
- PCPs' perceptions of their patients' emotions
- PCPs' perceptions on challenges in providing follow-up care or using SCP
- Positive views of SCPs
- Relationship between PCP and survivor

Number of PCPs that referenced each theme



Discussion

- Results indicate an overall positive view of SCPs by PCPs
- PCPs provided future recommendations to improve SCP's use and to overcome challenges
- Most of these themes are interconnected

Conclusion

The present study identified potential factors that influence PCPs perceptions on SCP use for follow-up care, which could further facilitate the implementation of SCPs as transition tools from tertiary back to primary care

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References

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