

Development of an Educational Framework for COPD in Primary Care Practice

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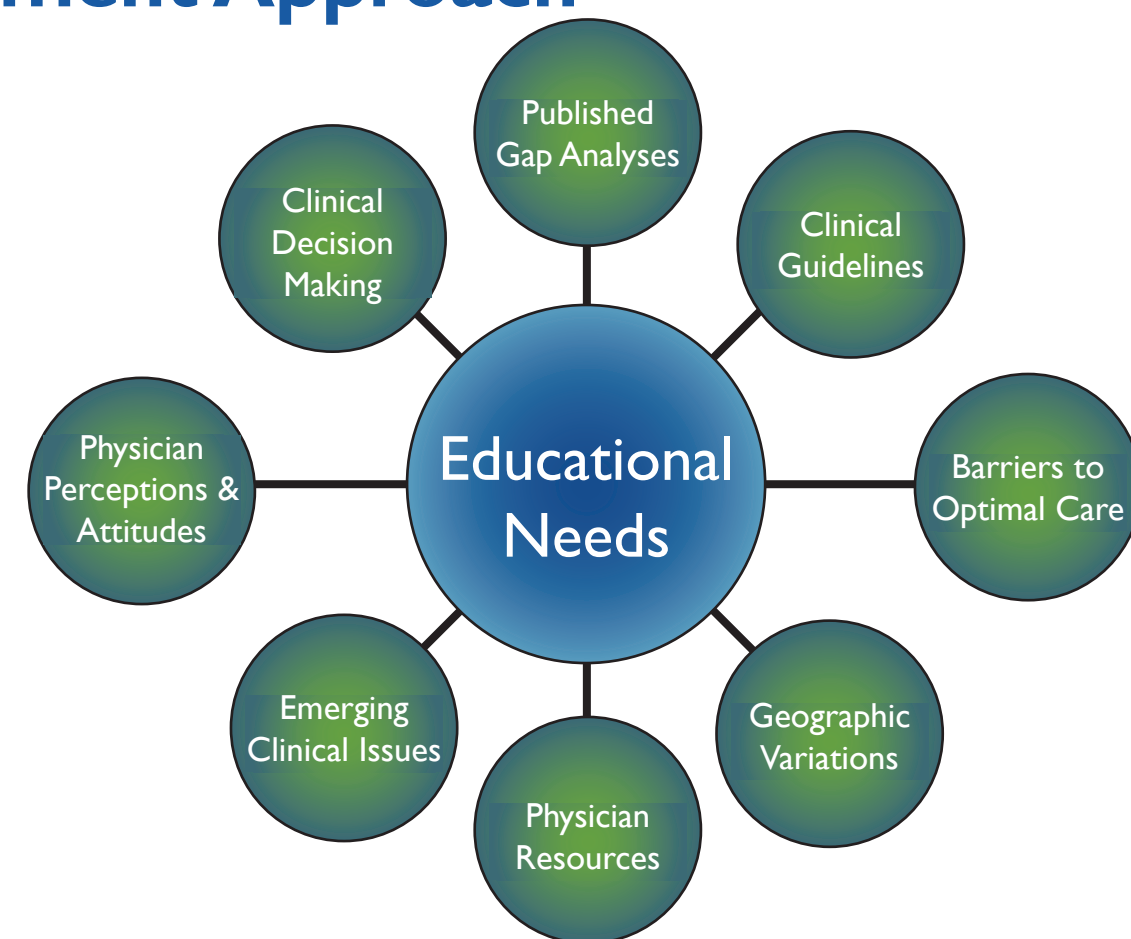
Purpose

- COPD is the 4th leading cause of death in the US¹
- Primary care physicians (PCP) diagnose and care for the majority of patients with mild-moderate COPD²
- This project sought to understand the educational needs of primary care physicians who manage patients with mild-moderate chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

¹ Minino AM et al National Vital Statistics Reports. 2006;54(19).
² Barr GR et al. Am J Med 2005;118(12)

Educational Needs Assessment Approach

- Information about physicians' educational needs can be derived from many information channels.
- To obtain a broad understanding, this project used a multi-faceted approach with both qualitative and quantitative methods to examine COPD care among primary care physicians.



Assessment Components

- Literature Review
 - Current guidelines
 - Published gap analysis
 - Emerging practice issues
 - Prior interventions to improve COPD-related knowledge or skills
- Nominal Group Technique
 - Barriers to optimal COPD care
- National Survey of Primary Care Physicians
 - Practice patterns using case vignettes
 - Perceptions, attitudes & resources
- GIS Mapping
 - Areas with high COPD mortality
 - At-risk areas with high smoking prevalence

Literature Review Findings

- Key Guideline Targeting Primary Care Physicians
 - Global Strategy for the Diagnosis, Management and Prevention of COPD (GOLD)
- Documented Gaps in COPD Care
 - Under utilization of spirometry for COPD diagnosis
 - Confusion about how COPD and asthma differ
 - Delayed recognition of early COPD by both physicians and patients
 - Inadequate smoking cessation counseling
 - Limited access and referral for pulmonary rehabilitation

Barrier Analysis Findings

Method

- Barriers to optimal COPD care were generated and prioritized by key opinion leaders and community-based PCPs using a nominal group technique (NGT)

Barriers with the Biggest Impact on COPD Care

- Inadequate patient self-care
- Difficulty of getting patients to quit smoking
- Challenge of making a COPD Diagnosis

Barriers That Future CME Should Focus On

- Engaging "addicted" patients in their healthcare
- Improving COPD Diagnosis
- Understanding and managing common COPD co-morbidities

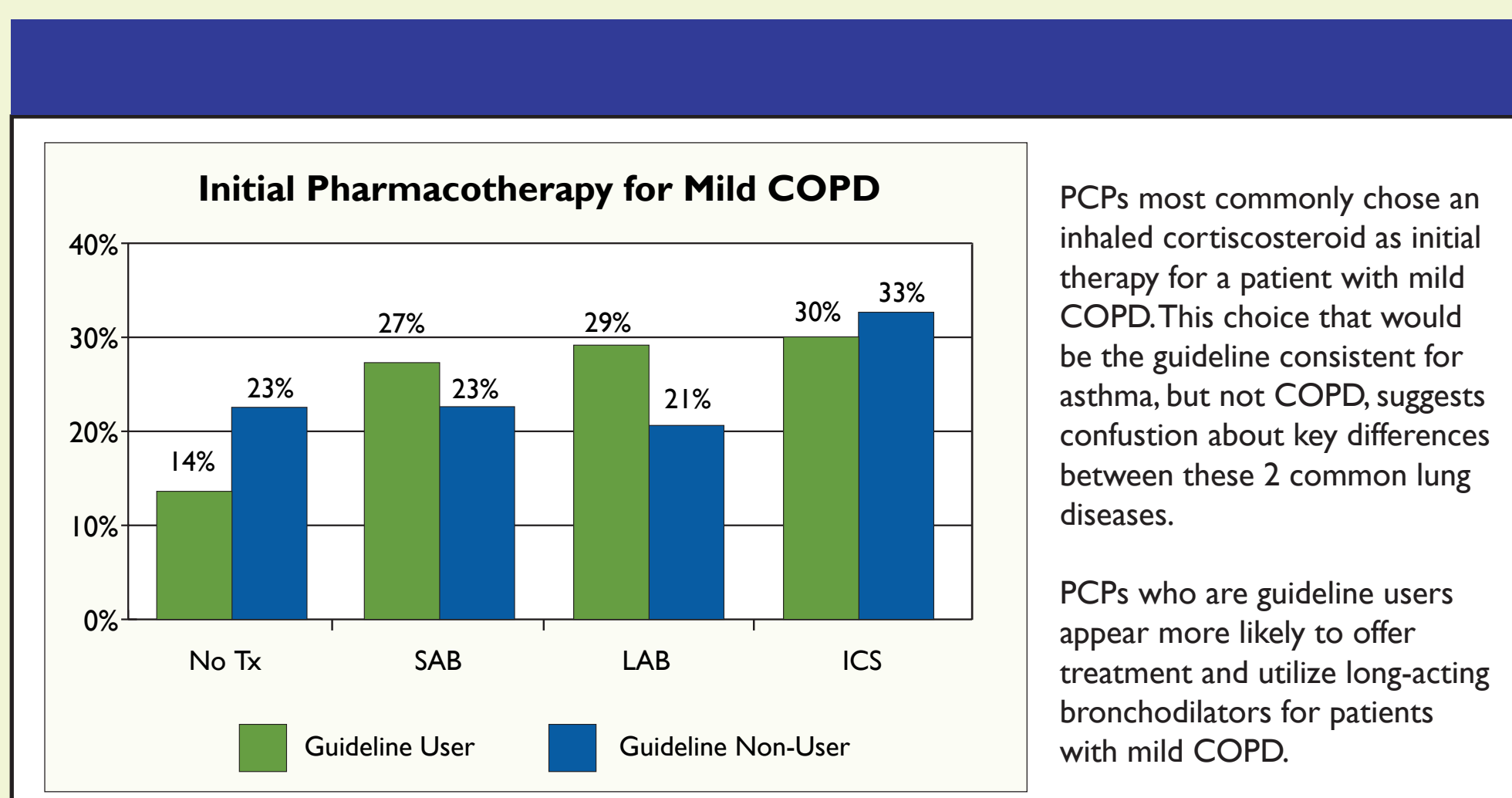
Primary Care Physician Survey Findings

Methods

- Scope - Detection, diagnosis and initial management of mild-moderate COPD
- Distribution occurred by e-mail and fax during Fall 2006
- 784 of 943 responses analyzed

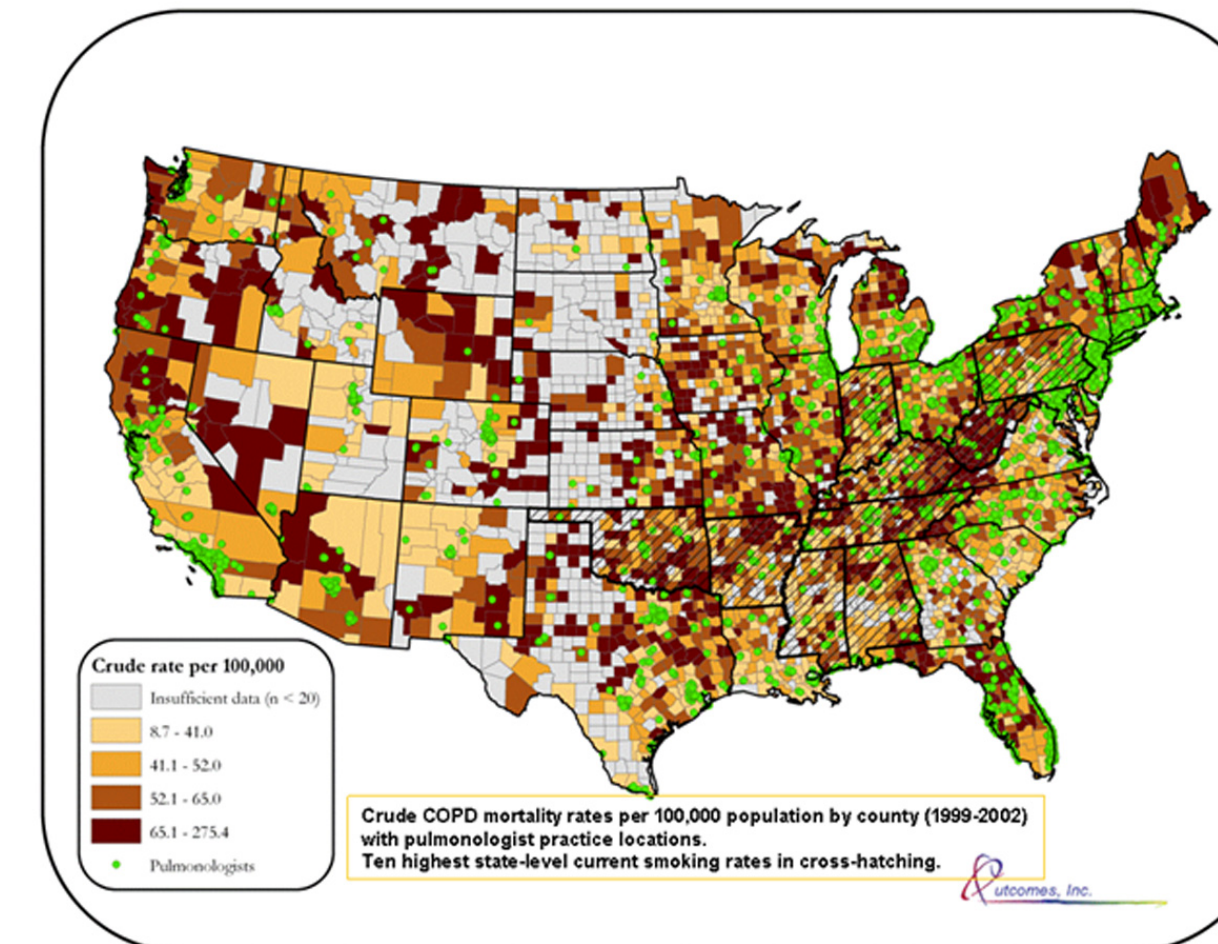
Characteristics of 784 physician respondents

- Specialty
 - Family Practice (FP) 54%
 - Internal Medicine (IM) 41%
 - General Practice 5%
- Practice Location
 - 20% in rural areas
- Estimated COPD Prevalence (average)
 - 10% of FP patients
 - 13% of IM patients



GIS Mapping

- Many areas where COPD mortality is highest are rural and have limited access to pulmonary specialists.
- PCPs are a critical source of care for patients with COPD in these areas.



Targets for Performance-based CME

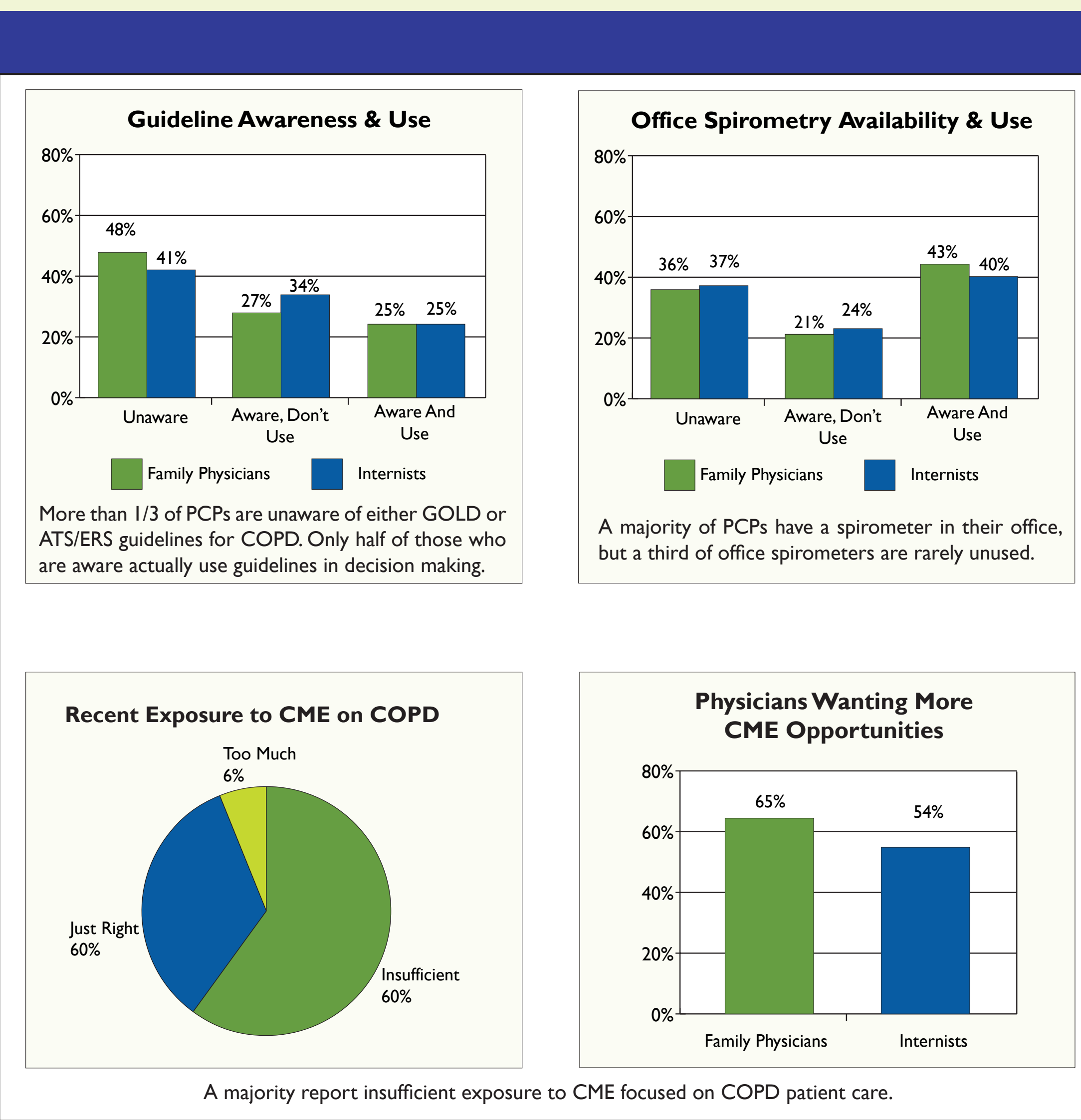
- Findings from this educational needs assessment collectively suggest a need to focus on the following aspects of COPD primary care:
 - Timely and accurate COPD diagnosis
 - Recognition of early COPD signs and symptoms
 - Spirometry skills
 - Engaging and communicating with COPD patients
 - Optimizing COPD therapy
 - Understanding differences between COPD and asthma
 - Managing co-morbidities associated with COPD

Conclusions

- This multifaceted approach to an educational assessment identified critical knowledge gaps in several areas that should be targeted by future education. In addition:
 - Many physician appear to desire more education on COPD
 - Educational needs of FPs and IMs may be somewhat different
 - PCPs in rural areas should be an important target of future COPD education
- This assessment also identified key perceptions, resources, and barriers that may impact COPD care. Interventions directed toward these additional determinants should:
 - Increase familiarity with COPD guidelines
 - Reduce barriers to obtaining diagnostic spirometry
 - Enhance resources that improve patient self-care
 - Improve access to pulmonary rehabilitation

Acknowledgements

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- This project was supported by an educational grant from Pfizer and Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals
- Additional information about this project can be found in:
 - Foster JA et al. Enhancing COPD management in primary care settings. MedGenMed. 2007;9(3):24 PMID: 18092030



For additional information about the methods or findings of this study, please contact:

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