

How do Lawyers Assist their Clients with Advance Care Planning? Findings from a Cross-Sectional Survey of Lawyers in Alberta

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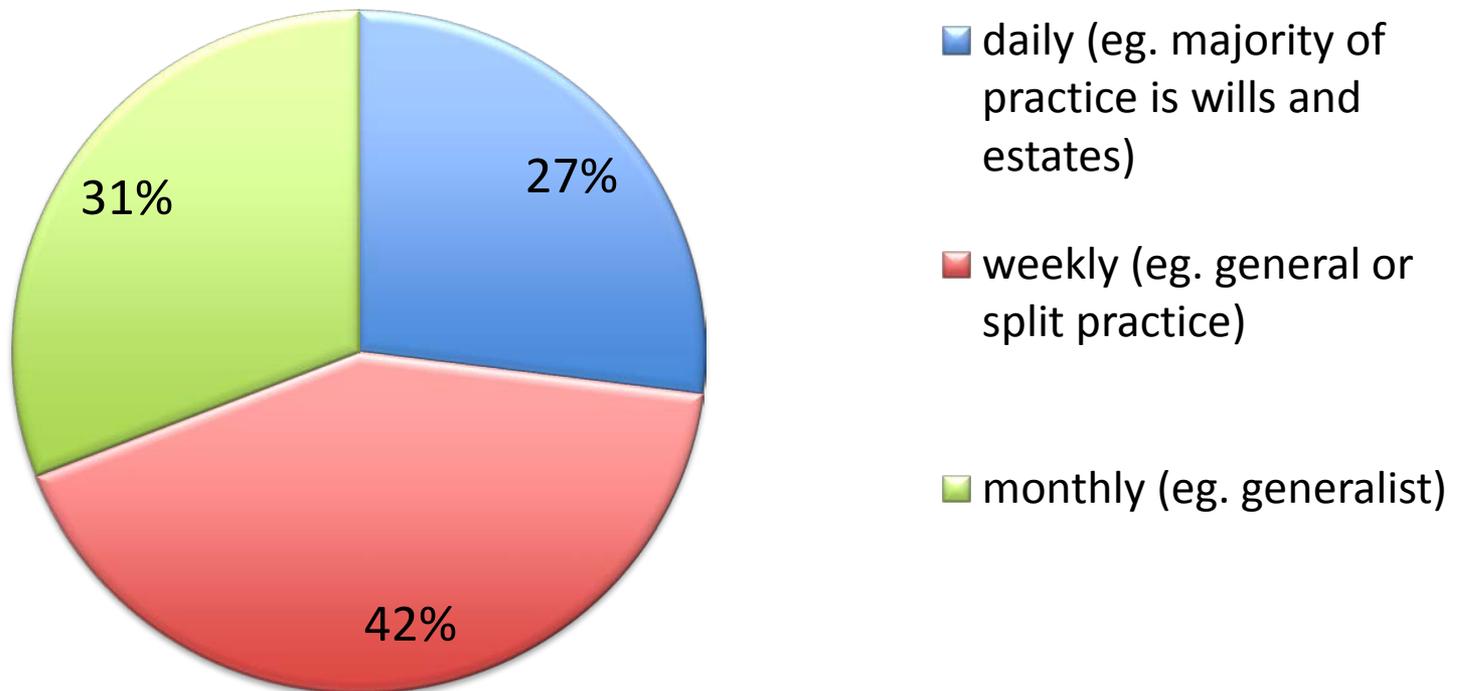
14 December 2016

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

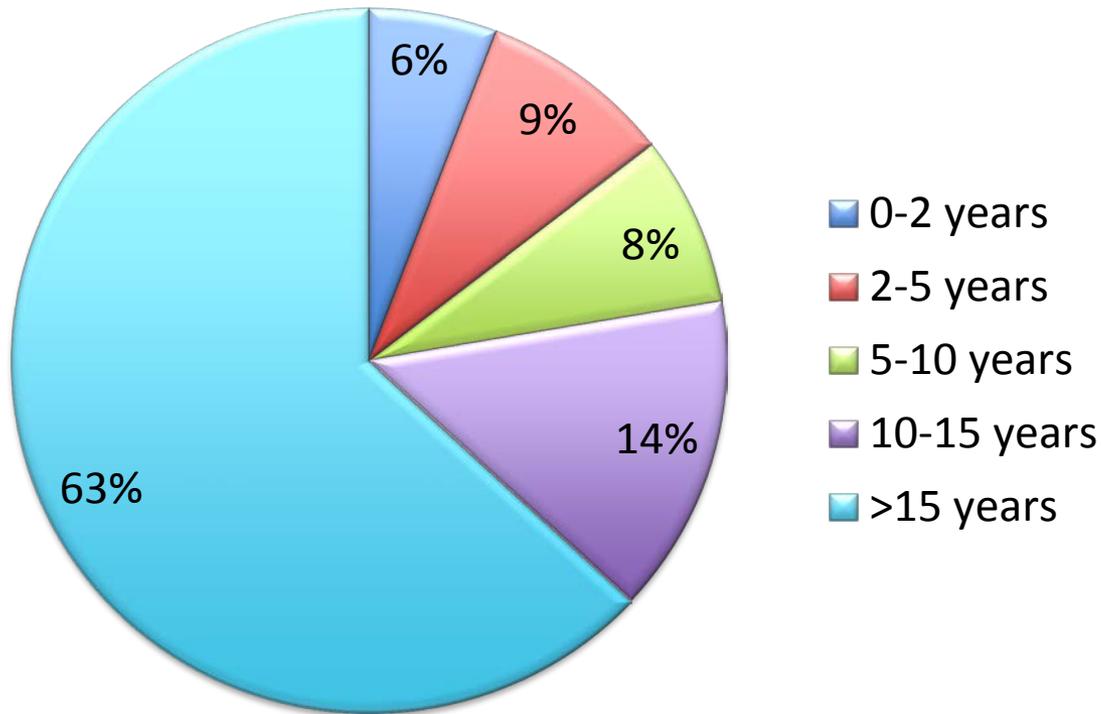
- February – June 2016
- 133 respondents, 104 completed in full
- Experiences and current practices
- Barriers
- Perception of Value and Professional Role
- Resources
- Demographics
 - size of practice, number of years, frequency of ACP work, main practice areas

Frequency that lawyers assist clients with ACP



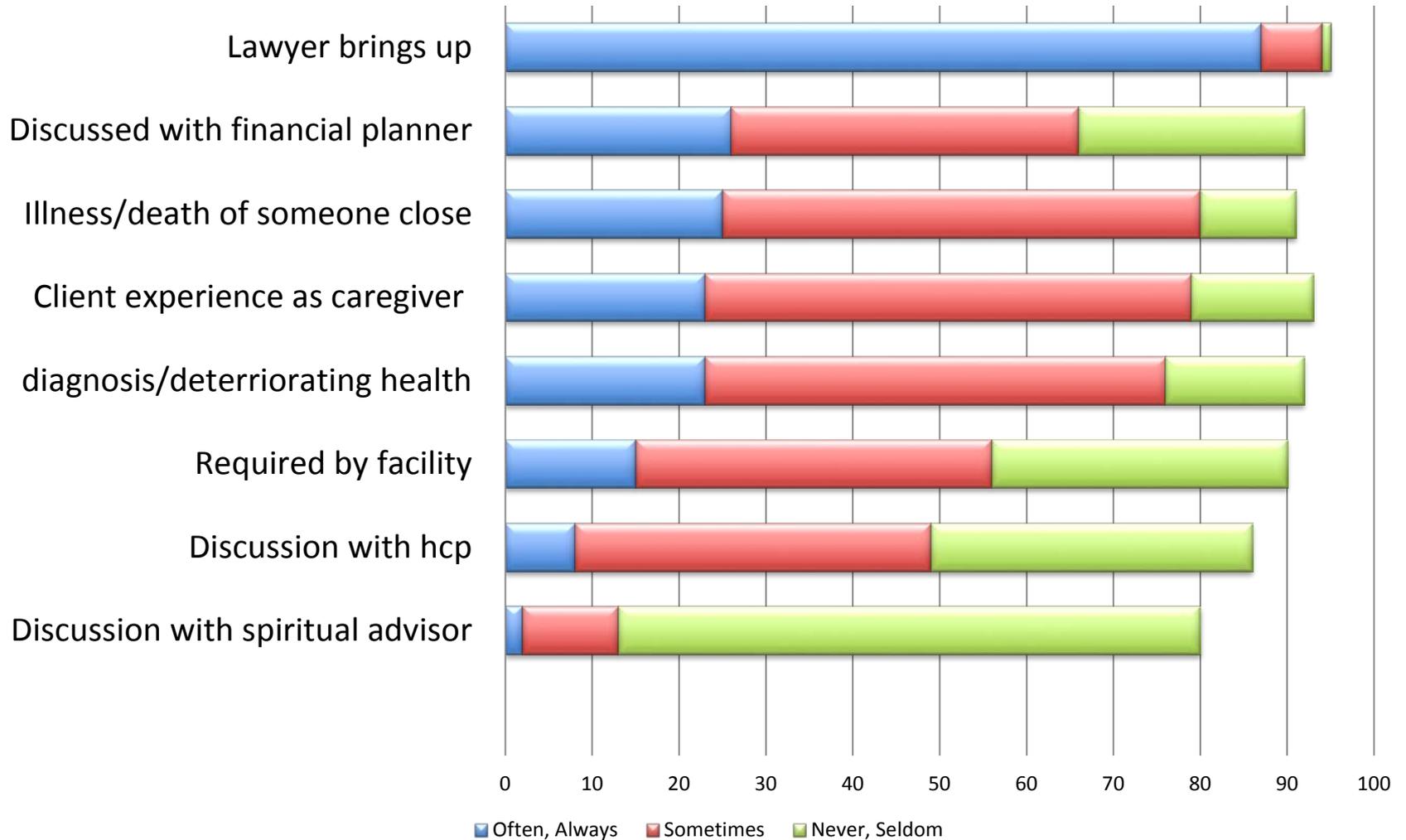
Demographics – Years of Practice

Years of Practice

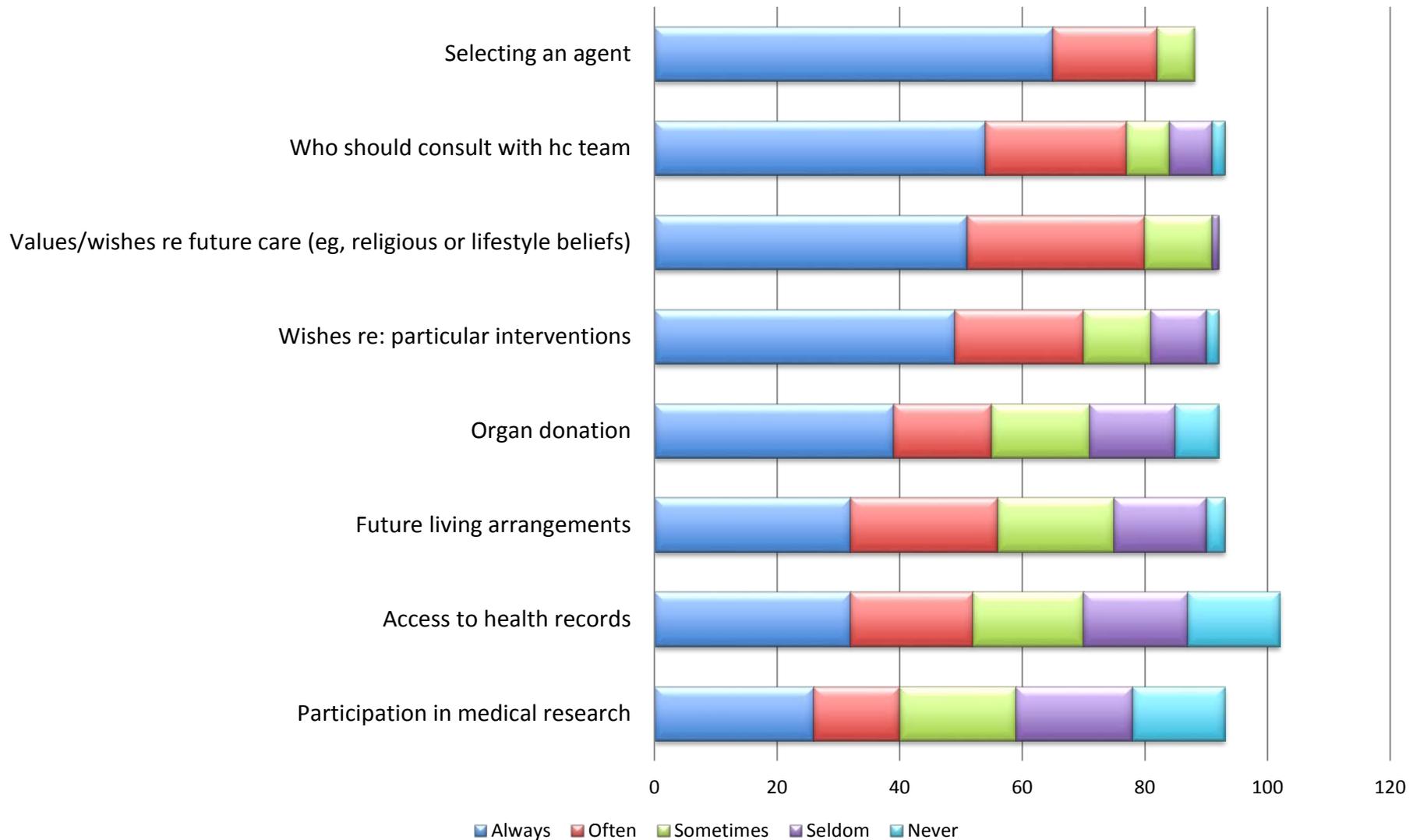


| Years | n | % |
|-------|-----|------|
| 0-2 | 6 | 5.8 |
| 2-5 | 9 | 8.7 |
| 5-10 | 8 | 7.8 |
| 10-15 | 15 | 14.6 |
| >15 | 65 | 63.1 |
| | 130 | 100 |

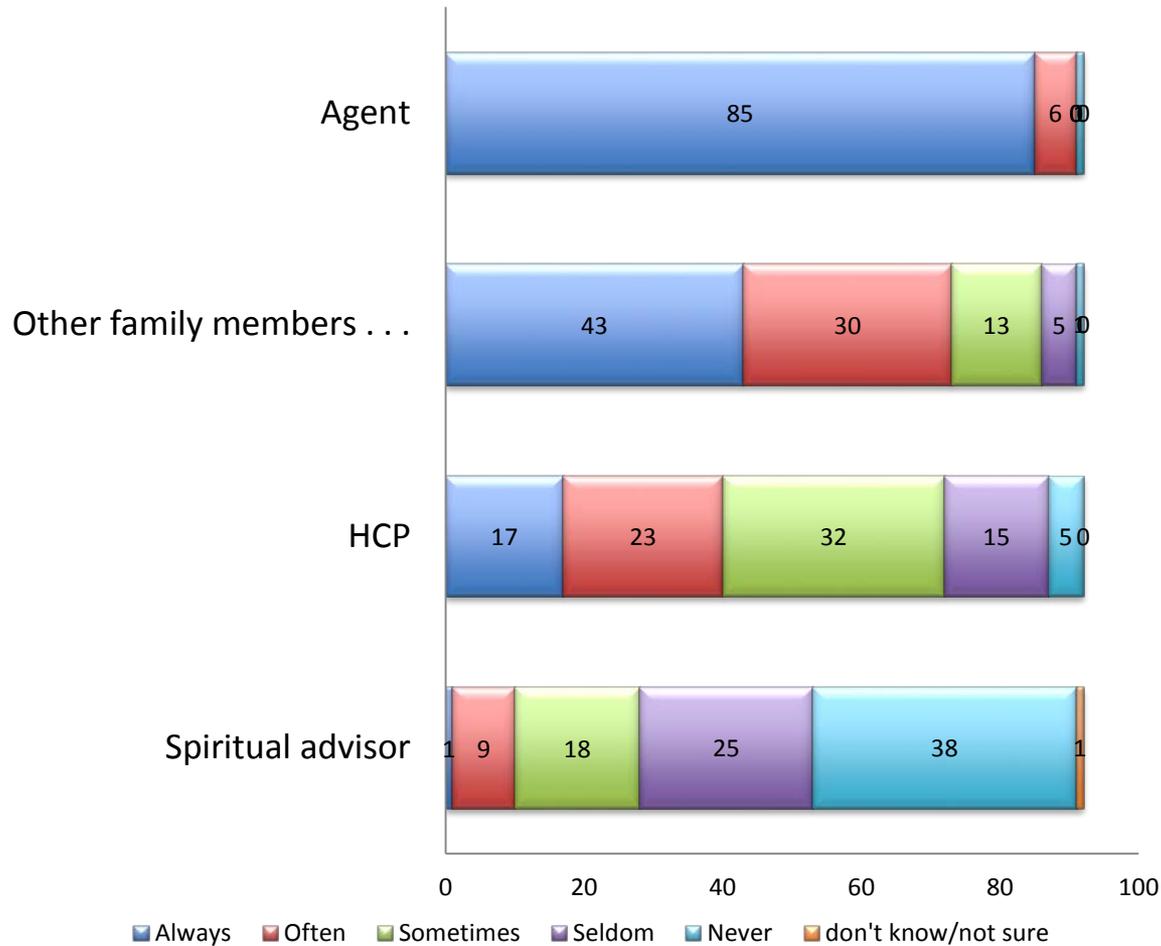
What prompts client's desire to engage in ACP?



What do lawyers and clients discuss?



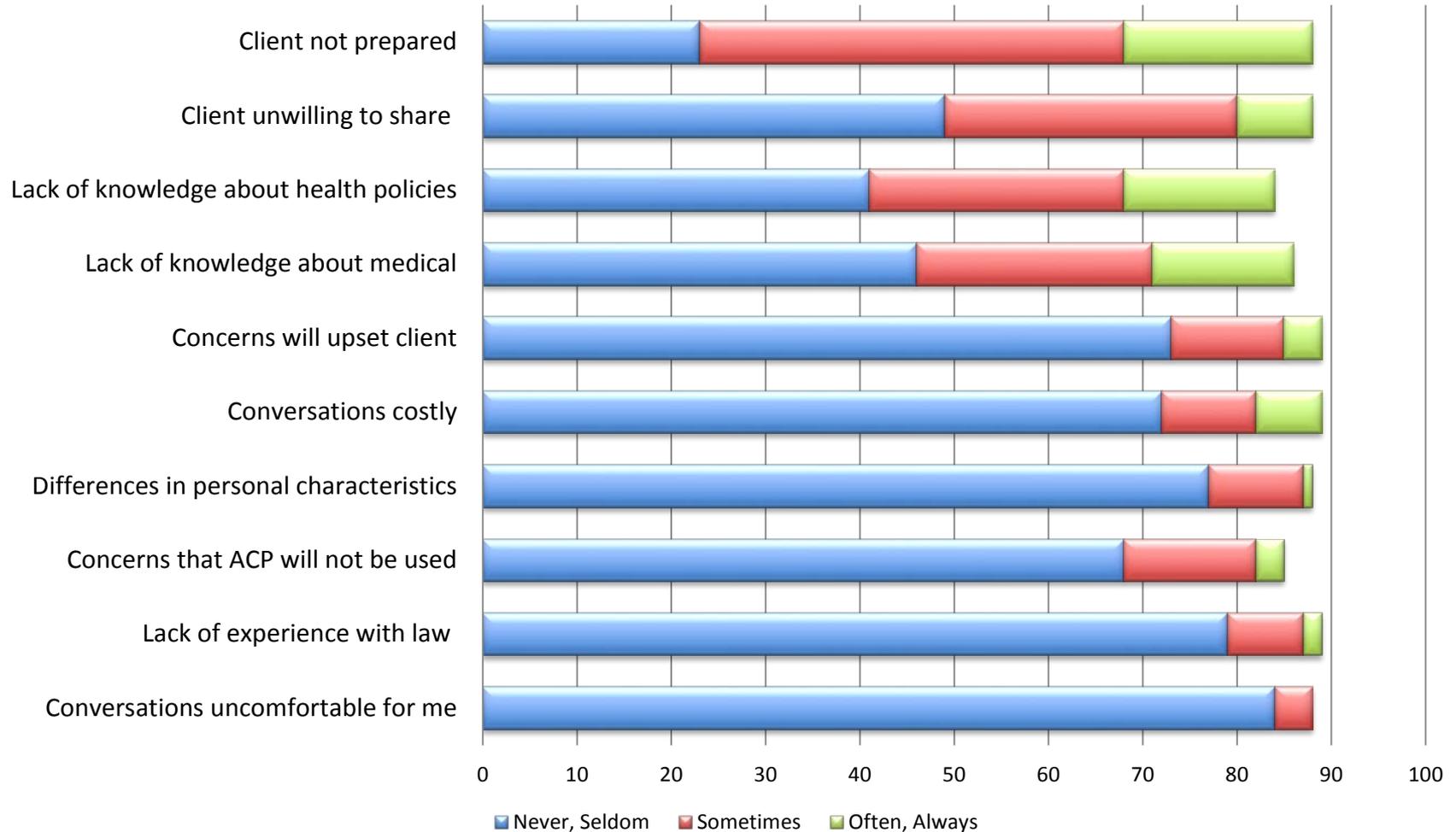
Lawyers encourage conversations with ...



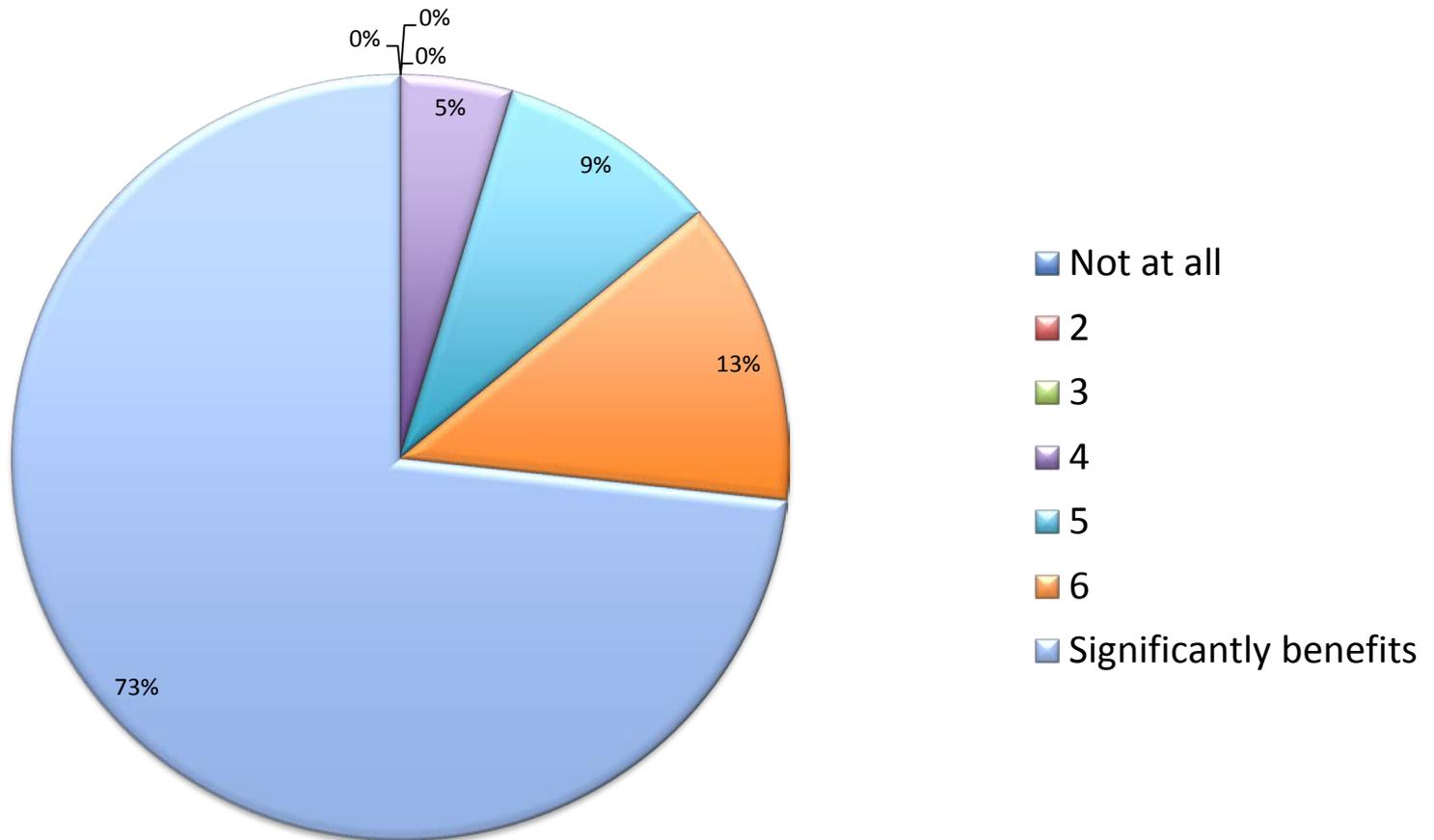
| | Spirit. Adv. | HCP | Other family members ... | Agent |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Always | 1 | 17 | 43 | 85 |
| Often | 9 | 23 | 30 | 6 |
| Sometimes | 18 | 32 | 13 | 0 |
| Seldom | 25 | 15 | 5 | 0 |
| Never | 38 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Don't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

Barriers to assisting with ACP

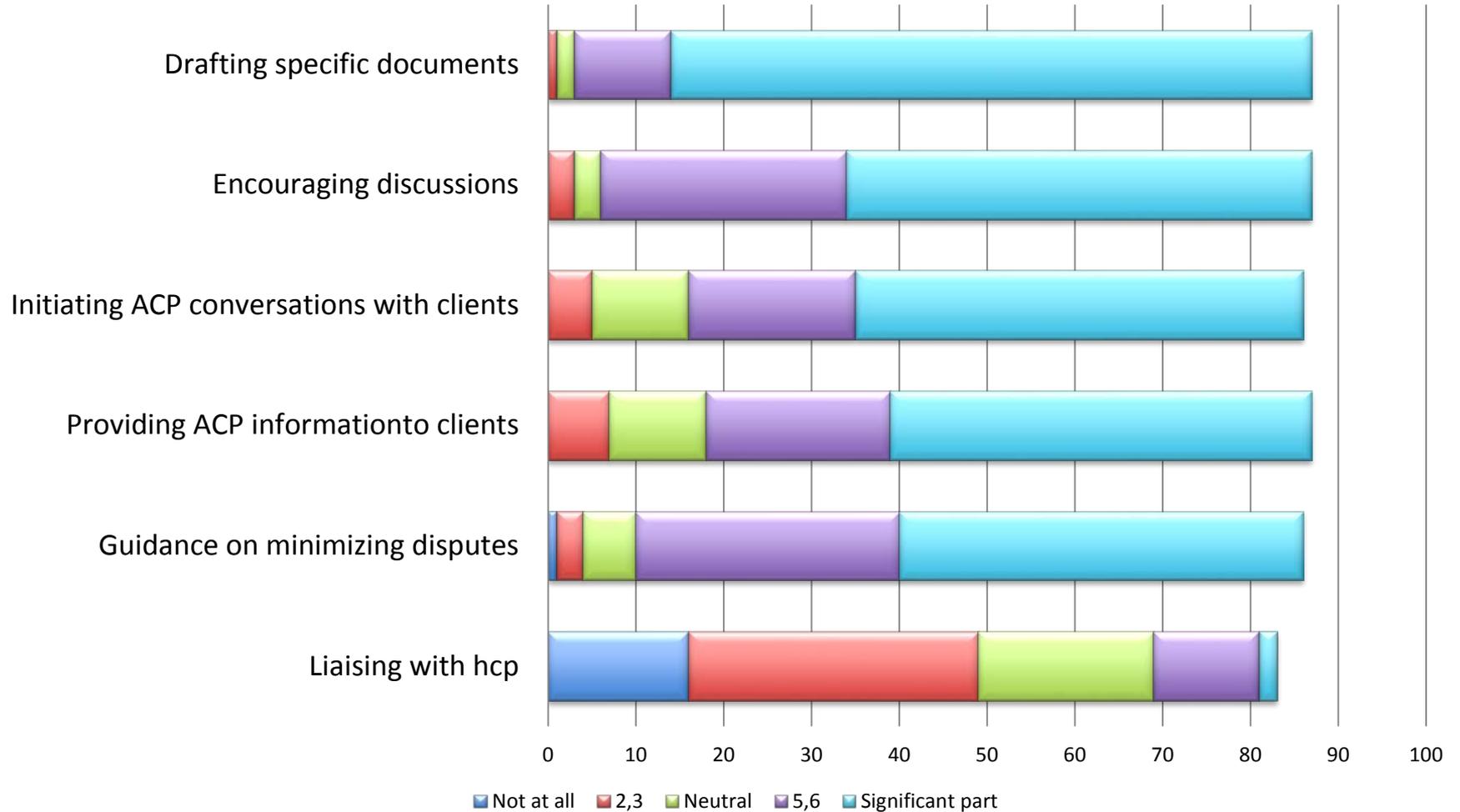
Barriers to assisting with ACP



Belief that ACP Benefits Clients

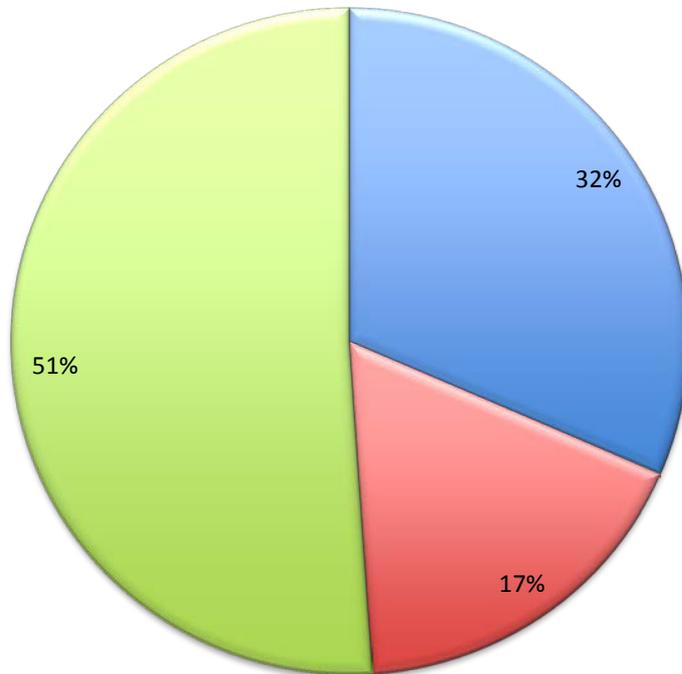


Lawyer's Role in ACP



Know what GCD is?

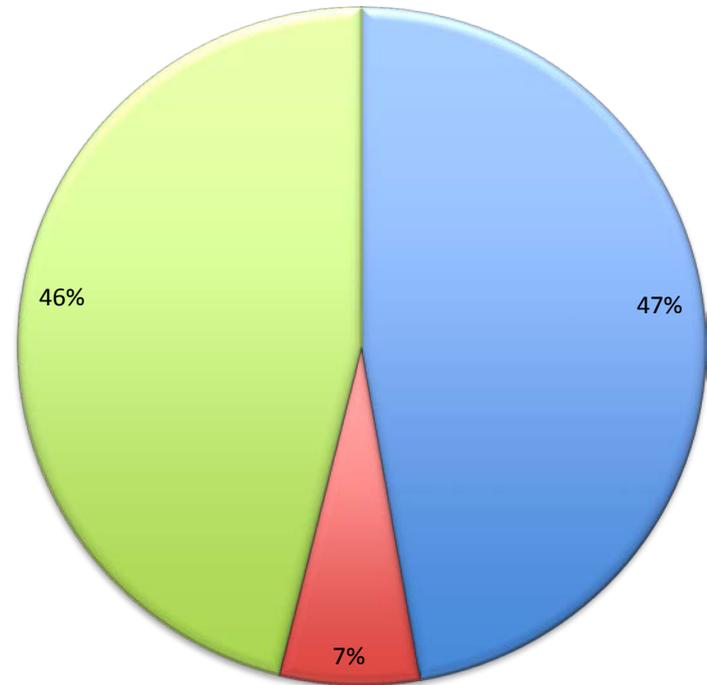
■ No ■ Unsure ■ Yes ■ (blank)



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

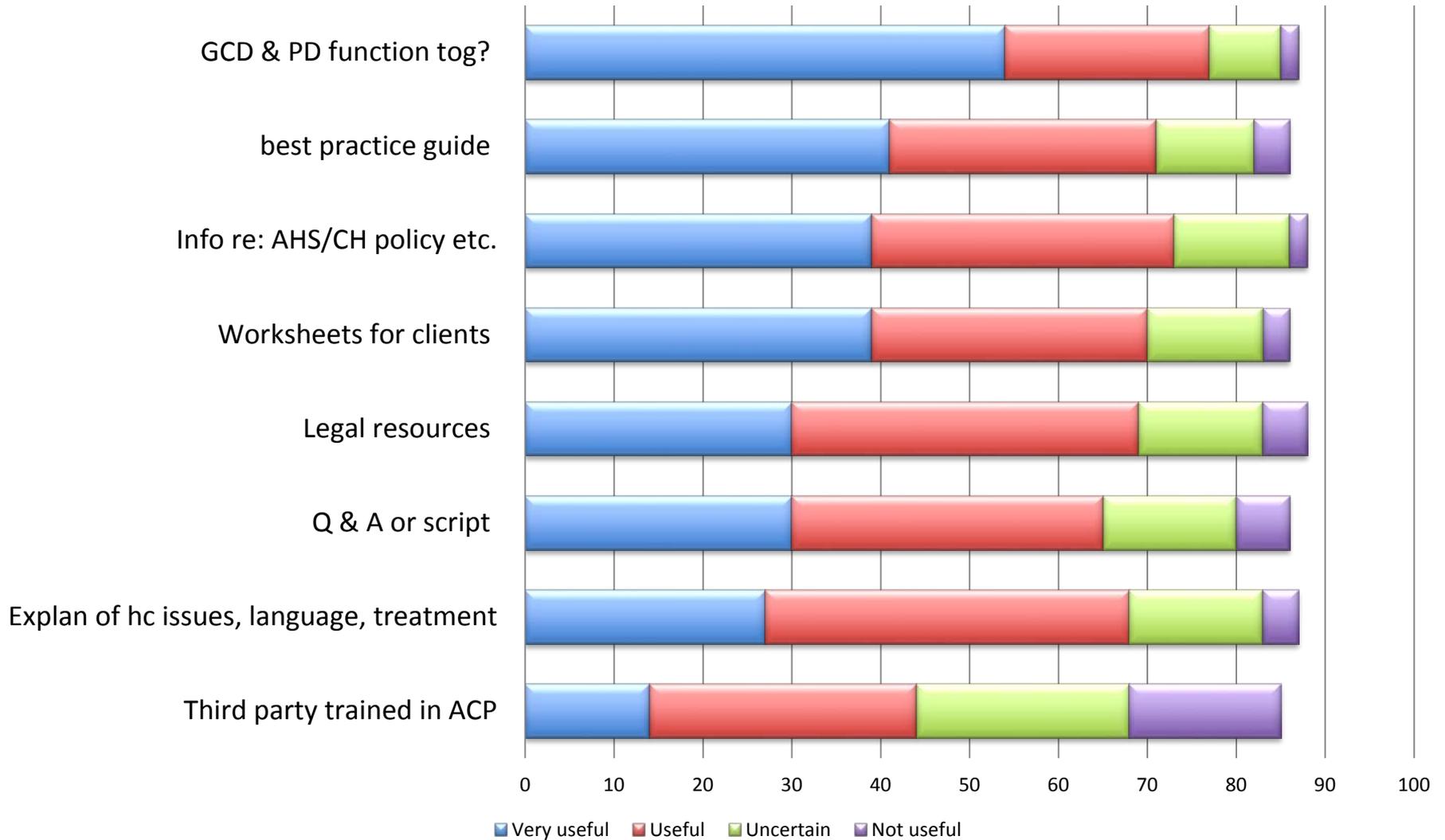
Know what Greensleeve is?

■ 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!