



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE & SCOPE OF PRACTICE

MARCH 2022

# KEY FINDINGS

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1. Doctors/physicians are the most familiar and trusted medical professionals among adults to lead medical care in a medical emergency.
  - Older adults hold a higher preference for doctors/physicians than their younger counterparts.
2. The majority of adults expressed they would be concerned if a doctor/physician was not available to lead their emergency medical care.
  - Roughly one-quarter of adults expressed they would not be concerned if a doctor/physician was not available to lead their emergency medical care.
3. Although most adults support expanding scope of practice for APPs, a high proportion of adults do not know about or have no opinion on the topic.
4. Adults still overwhelmingly prefer a doctor/physician over the other medical professionals to lead their emergency medical care even after learning about education.
  - Learning about the amount of education and training required for each of the medical professionals had little influence on adults' preference of who should lead their emergency medical care.

AGENDA

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT FAMILIARITY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

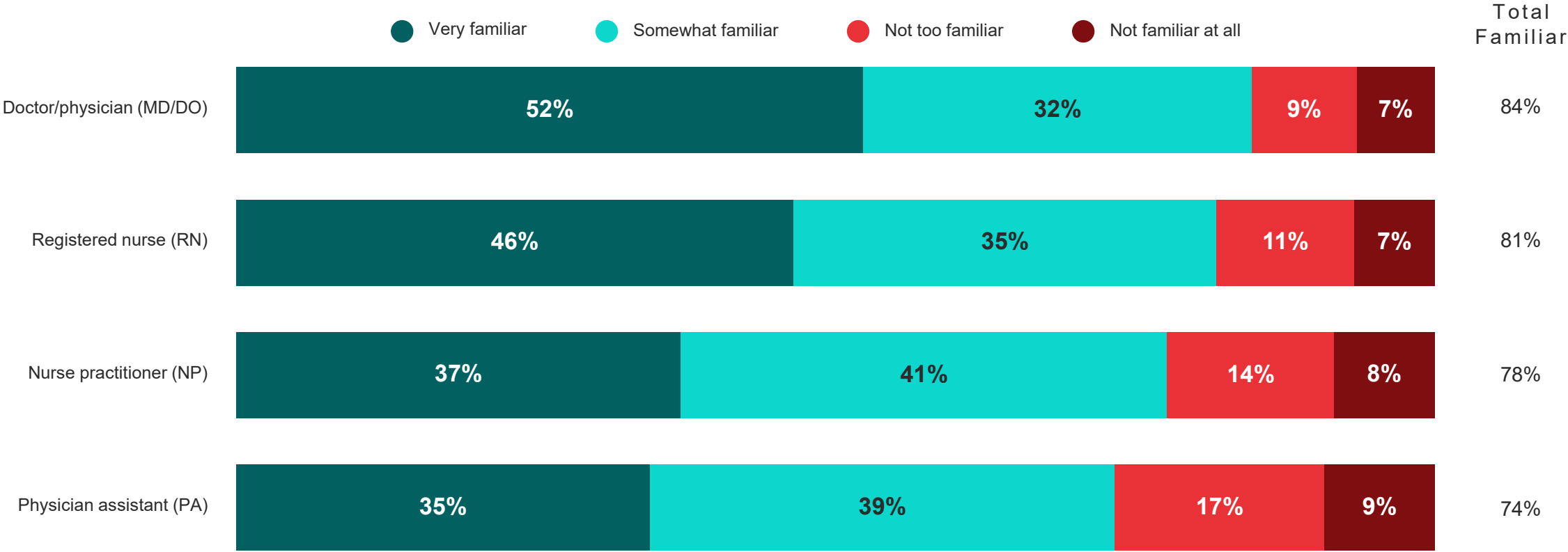
SCOPE OF PRACTICE



EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT FAMILIARITY

Adults are most familiar with doctors/physicians and registered nurses in an emergency department. Over half of adults (52%) felt *very familiar* with the role of a doctor/physician while only one-third of adults (35%) felt *very familiar* with the role of a physician assistant in an emergency department.

How familiar are you, if at all, with each of following roles in an emergency department?



Total Familiar = Very familiar + somewhat familiar

AGENDA

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT FAMILIARITY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

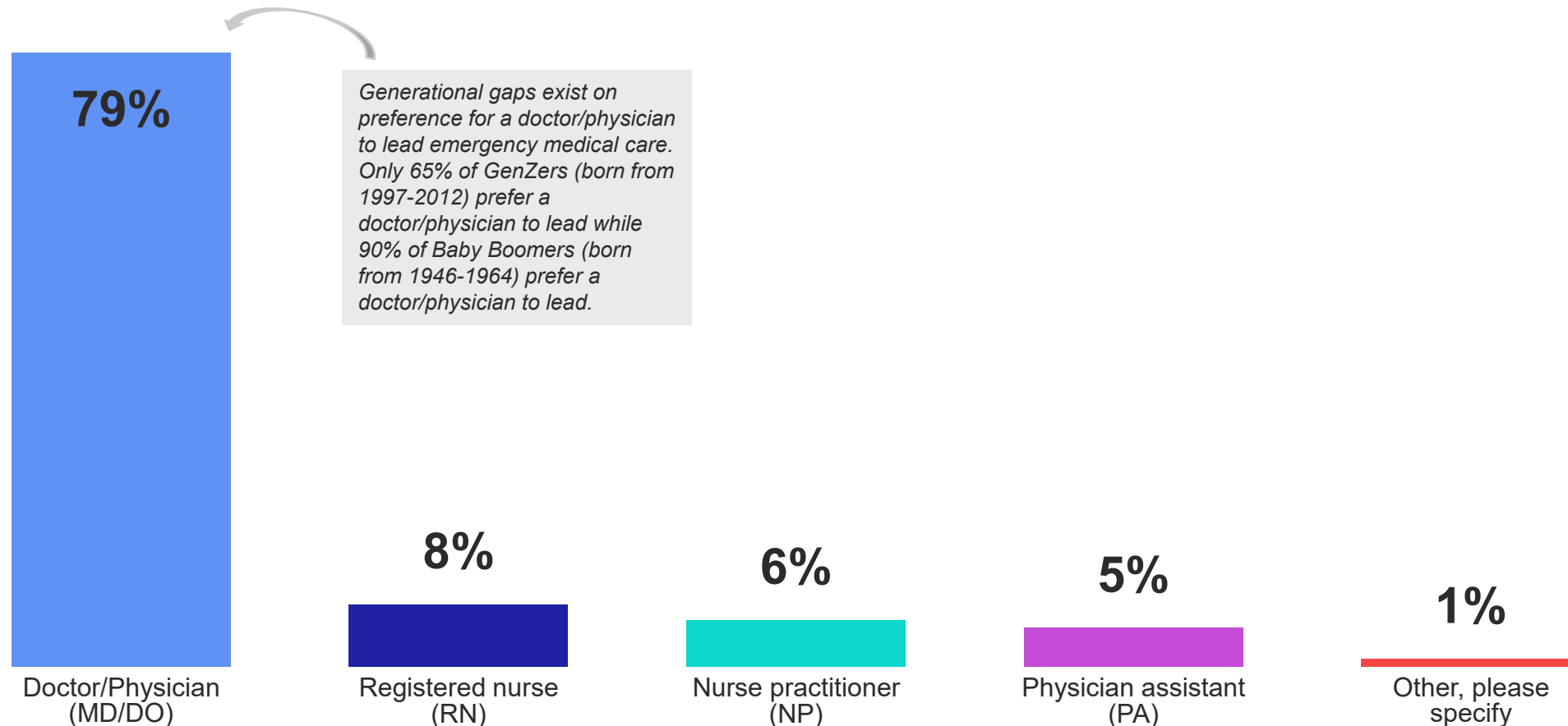
SCOPE OF PRACTICE



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

Eight-in-ten adults (79%) prefer a doctor/physician to lead their medical care while in the emergency department. Very few adults prefer any of the other medical professionals to lead their emergency department medical care.

In the event of a medical emergency, who of the following do you prefer most to lead your medical care (diagnosing and treatment) while in the emergency department?



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

Nine-in-ten adults 65 and over (91%) prefer a doctor/physician to lead their medical care in the emergency department whereas only two-thirds of adults aged 18-34 (67%) prefer a doctor/physician to lead their emergency department medical care.

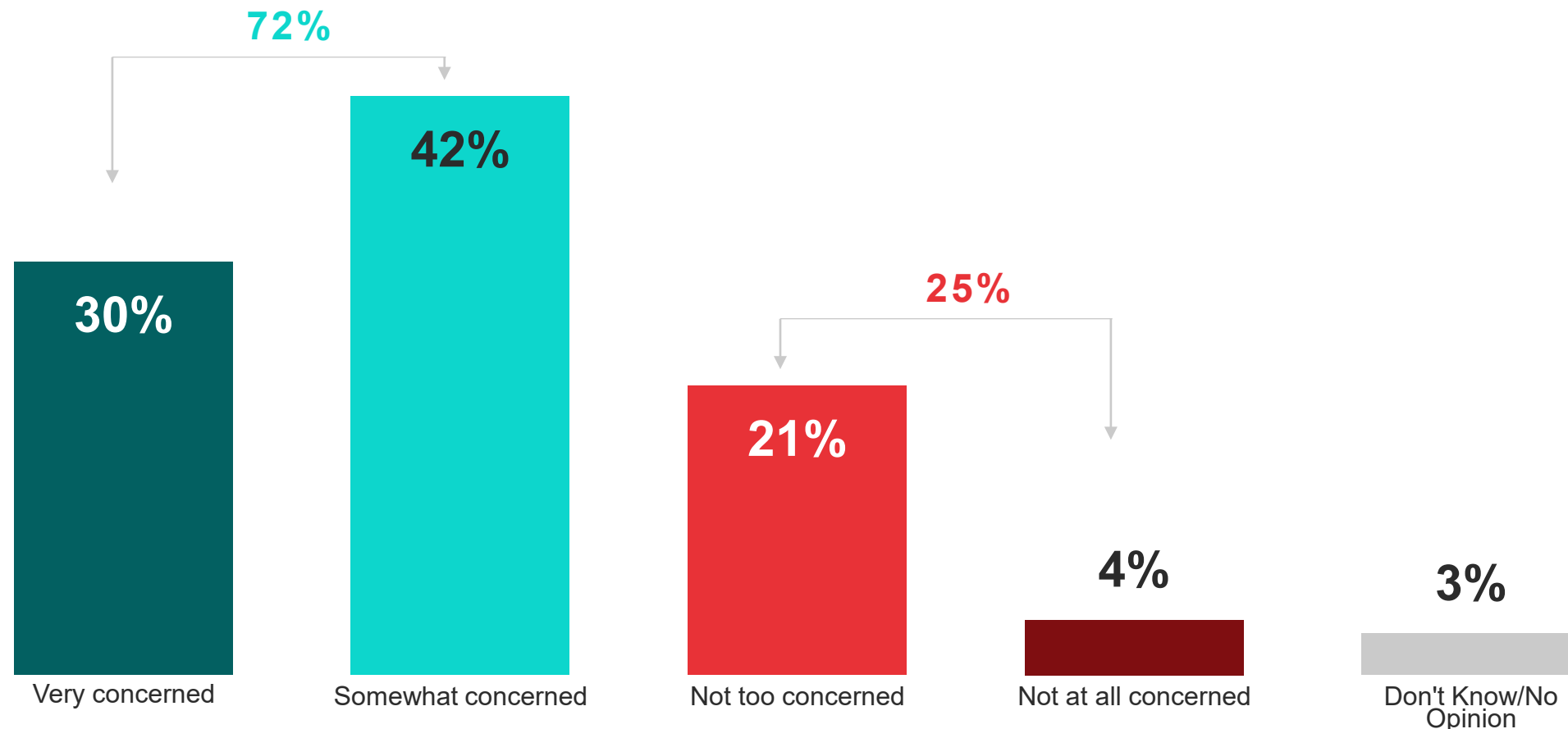
In the event of a medical emergency, who of the following do you prefer most to lead your medical care (diagnosing and treatment) while in the emergency department?

	Adults	Gender: Male	Gender: Female	Age: 18-34	Age: 35-44	Age: 45-64	Age: 65+	PID: Dem (no lean)	PID: Ind (no lean)	PID: Rep (no lean)	Income: Under 50k	Income: 50k-100k	Income: 100k+	Expand the Scope of Practice	Don't Expand the Scope of Practice
Physician assistant (PA)	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%	4%	4%	5%	5%	4%	4%	6%	7%	5%	5%
Nurse practitioner (NP)	6%	6%	6%	8%	9%	5%	2%	6%	6%	6%	7%	5%	4%	7%	3%
Registered nurse (RN)	8%	9%	8%	16%	6%	6%	3%	9%	8%	7%	9%	8%	6%	8%	7%
Doctor/Physician (MD/DO)	79%	80%	79%	67%	77%	84%	91%	79%	78%	82%	78%	80%	82%	78%	84%
Other, please specify	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	3%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

Nearly three-fourths of adults (72%) would be *very* or *somewhat* concerned if a doctor/physician was unavailable to oversee their diagnosing and treatment in a medical emergency.

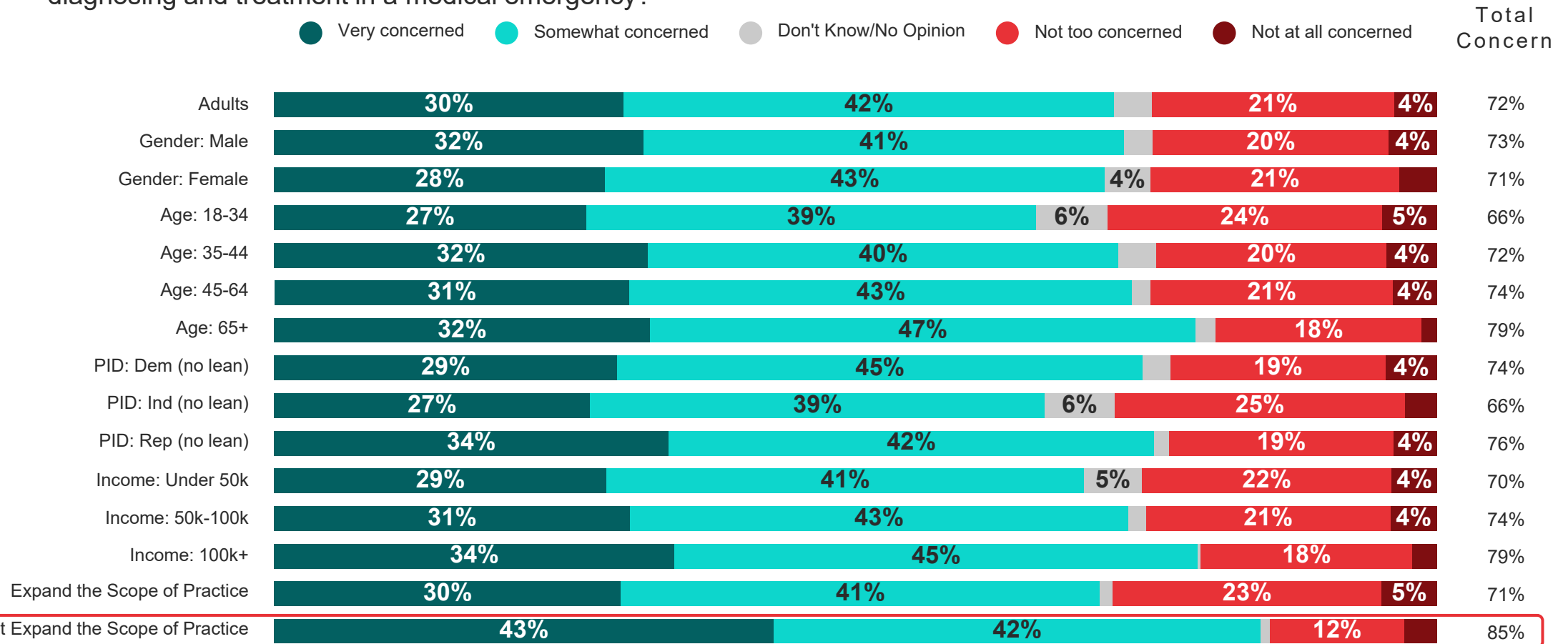
How concerned would you be, if at all, about the quality of your medical care if there were not a doctor/physician overseeing your diagnosing and treatment in a medical emergency?





# Adults who believe the scope of practice for APPs should not be expanded show the most concern for emergency medical treatment without a doctor/physician overseeing the diagnosing and treatment.

How concerned would you be, if at all, about the quality of your medical care if there were not a doctor/physician overseeing your diagnosing and treatment in a medical emergency?



Total Concern = Very concerned + somewhat concerned

AGENDA

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT FAMILIARITY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

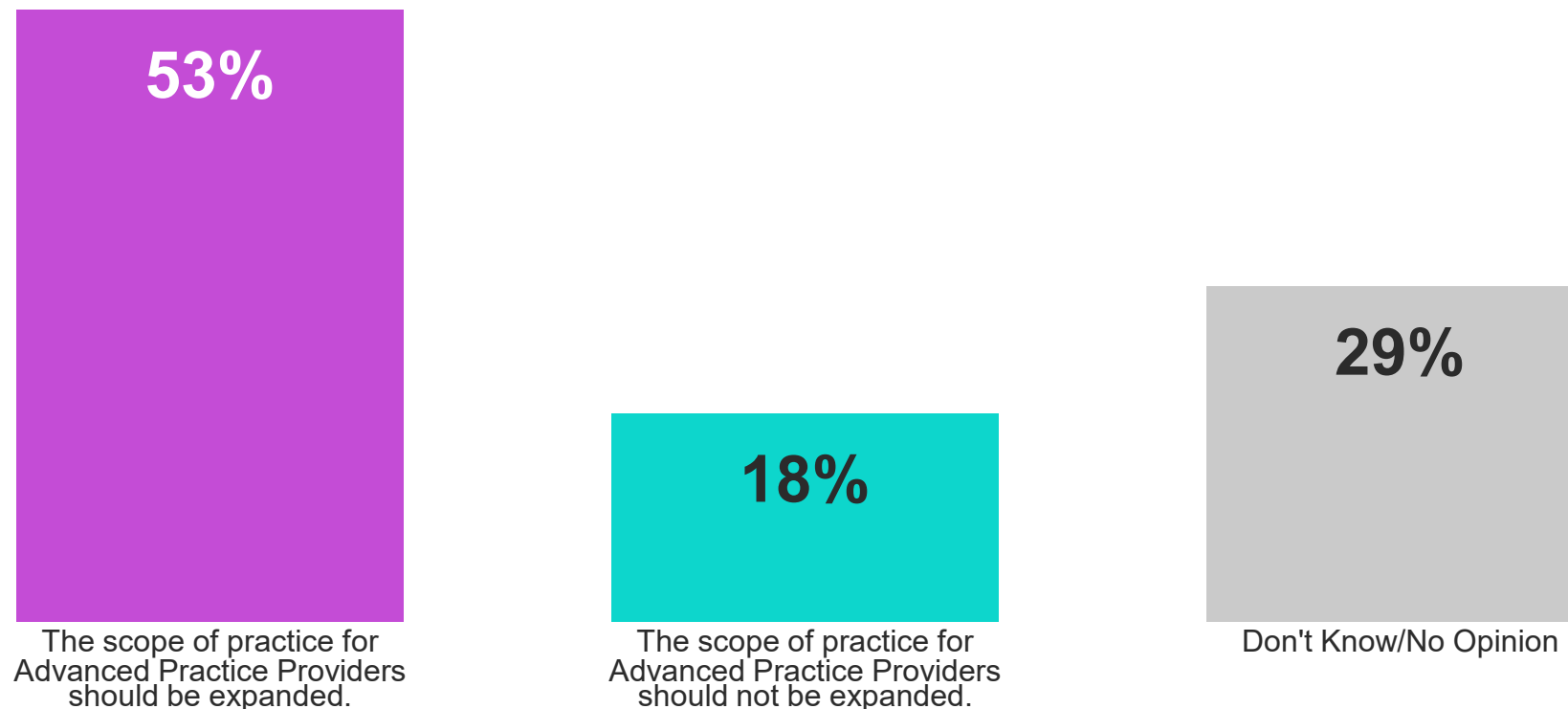
SCOPE OF PRACTICE



## SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Over half of adults (53%) believe the scope of practice for APPs should be expanded, although nearly three-in-ten adults (29%) expressed they did not know or had no opinion.

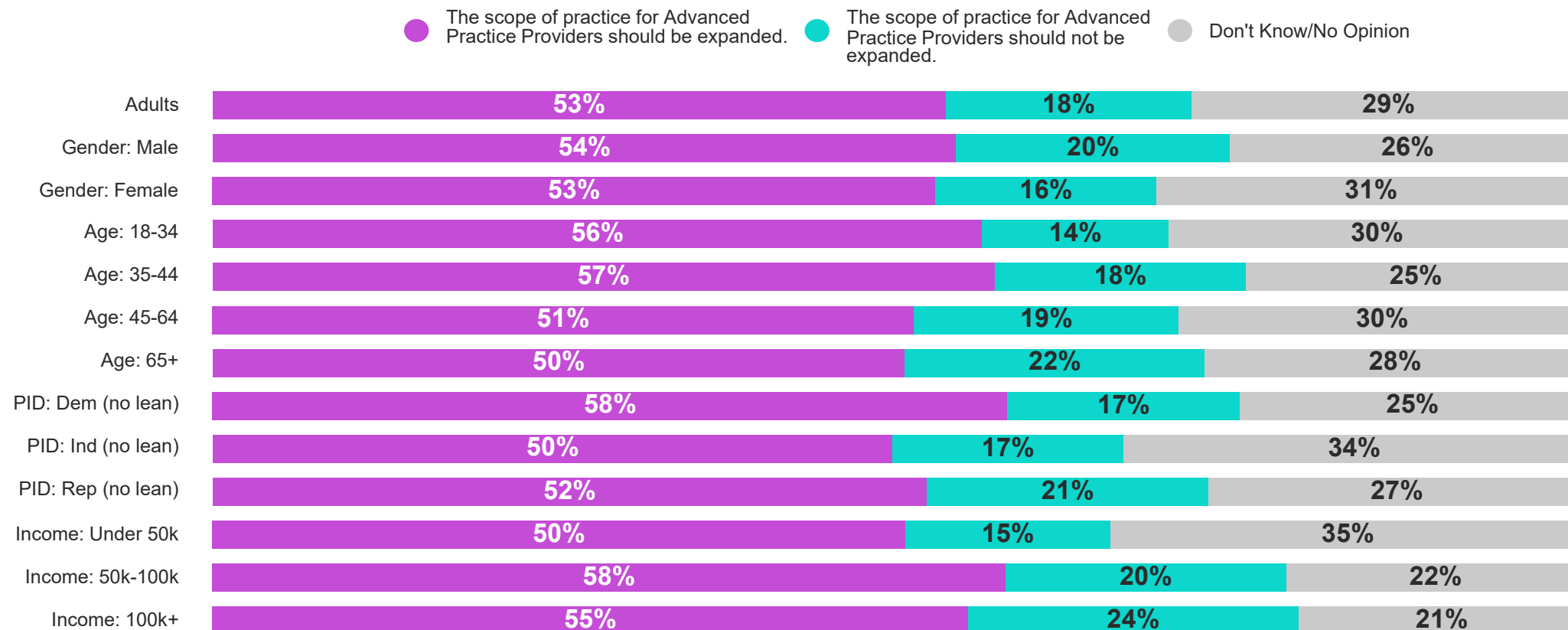
Scope of practice describes the procedures, actions, and processes that a healthcare practitioner is permitted to carry out within the terms of their license. Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) are medical professionals who are trained and educated to perform certain clinical duties or administrative tasks. APPs include non-physician medical providers such as physician assistants and nurse practitioners Which of the following comes closest to your opinion, even if neither is exactly correct?



SCOPE OF PRACTICE

# Adults across all demographics have a lack of knowledge on whether scope of practice for APPs should be expanded.

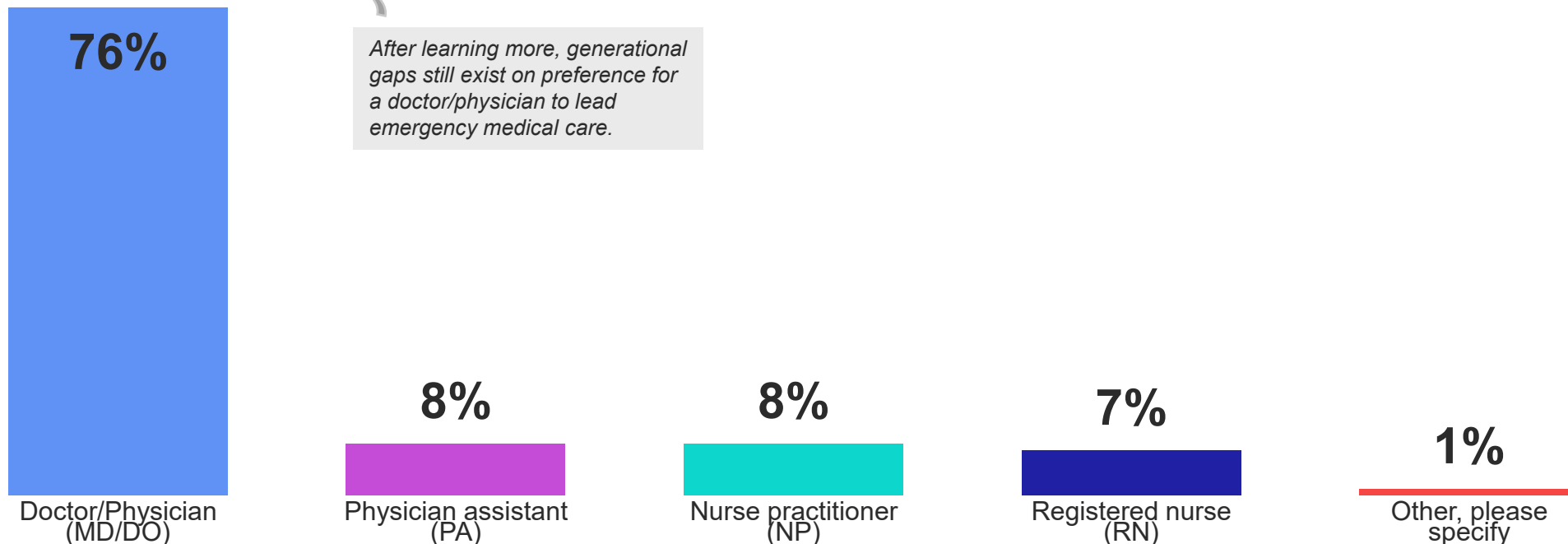
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SCOPE OF PRACTICE

After learning more about the training requirements for each of the medical professionals, adults still preferred a doctor/physician to lead their medical care in the emergency department.

As you may know, a physician assistant (PA) is required to complete 7 years of training and 1,600 clinical hours to be licensed. A nurse practitioner (NP) is required to complete 5-8 years of training and 500 clinical hours to be licensed. A registered nurse (RN) is required to complete 4 years of training and 400 clinical hours to be licensed. A doctor/physician (MD/DO) is required to complete 11 or more years of training, a medical residency, and 12,000 clinical hours to be licensed. After learning more about the training for each medical professional, which of the following medical professionals do you prefer most to lead your medical care (diagnosing and treatment) in a medical emergency?



SCOPE OF PRACTICE

After learning more about the training requirements for each of the medical professionals, older adults still show more preference for a doctor/physician to lead their emergency medical care than younger adults.

After learning more about the training for each medical professional, which of the following medical professionals do you prefer most to lead your medical care (diagnosing and treatment) in a medical emergency?

	Adults	Gender: Male	Gender: Female	Age: 18-34	Age: 35-44	Age: 45-64	Age: 65+	PID: Dem (no lean)	PID: Ind (no lean)	PID: Rep (no lean)	Income: Under 50k	Income: 50k-100k	Income: 100k+	Expand the Scope of Practice	Don't Expand the Scope of Practice
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Nurse practitioner (NP)	8%	9%	8%	9%	8%	9%	5%	8%	8%	7%	9%	7%	5%	10%	5%
Registered nurse (RN)	7%	8%	6%	12%	9%	4%	1%	7%	6%	7%	8%	6%	5%	7%	7%
Doctor/Physician (MD/DO)	76%	75%	76%	67%	73%	79%	85%	74%	76%	78%	74%	77%	82%	72%	82%
Other, please specify	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

# Highlighting the changes in preferences to lead emergency medical treatment.

After learning more about the training for each medical professional, which of the following medical professionals do you prefer most to lead your medical care (diagnosing and treatment) in a medical emergency?

Most Trust to Lead Emergency Care (before training requirements)

	Adults	Gender: Male	Gender: Female	Age: 18-34	Age: 35-44	Age: 45-64	Age: 65+	PID: Dem (no lean)	PID: Ind (no lean)	PID: Rep (no lean)	Income: Under 50k	Income: 50k-100k	Income: 100k+	Expand the Scope of Practice	Don't Expand the Scope of Practice
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Most Trust to Lead Emergency Care (after training requirements)

Physician assistant (PA)	8%	8%	9%	9%	8%	7%	8%	10%	8%	6%	7%	10%	8%	10%	6%
Nurse practitioner (NP)	8%	9%	8%	9%	8%	9%	5%	8%	8%	7%	9%	7%	5%	10%	5%
Registered nurse (RN)	7%	8%	6%	12%	9%	4%	1%	7%	6%	7%	8%	6%	5%	7%	7%
Doctor/Physician (MD/DO)	76%	75%	76%	67%	73%	79%	85%	74%	76%	78%	74%	77%	82%	72%	82%
Other, please specify	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Adults cited having doctors/physicians supervise care while also expressing a lack of knowledge on the processes of leading care in the emergency department.

After learning more about the training for each medical professional, which of the following medical professionals do you prefer most to lead your medical care (diagnosing and treatment) in a medical emergency?

“MD as supervisor but allowing an RN to take lead role over care.”

“If it were immediately life threatening, an MD is cool. Anything else, I'm good with a RN.”

“I don't know.”

“Anyone with a good track record in the field.”





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