

# IPU or ITU? It all starts with PCT (Palliative Care Training)

## Summary

All healthcare professionals have the potential to work with people who are dying from day one after completing their undergraduate course. This is why it is **vital to ensure they receive adequate training** to do so. This survey of UK undergraduate courses show the high degree of **variability in training currently being offered**. It also identified that most courses were acutely aware of the changing population they were working with and were **keen to connect with other institutions** to enhance their current course content.

## 1. Background

Impending death is not well recognised.<sup>1</sup> Due to improvements in technology and medicine, people are living longer with more complex health conditions<sup>2</sup> and because of this, the death of a patient is an experience that many people entering a healthcare profession will have little of. As death occurs in any setting, at any time, it is vital that all healthcare professionals regardless of the setting they go on to work in, have adequate Palliative Care Training (PCT).

## 2. Method

We contacted all UK institutes providing **undergraduate training** in:

- Medicine
  - Adult Nursing
  - Occupational Therapy
  - Physiotherapy
  - Social Work
- Form the core specialist palliative care team<sup>3</sup>

We emailed each course and asked about the provision of training and time dedicated to the recognition and communication of imminent death.

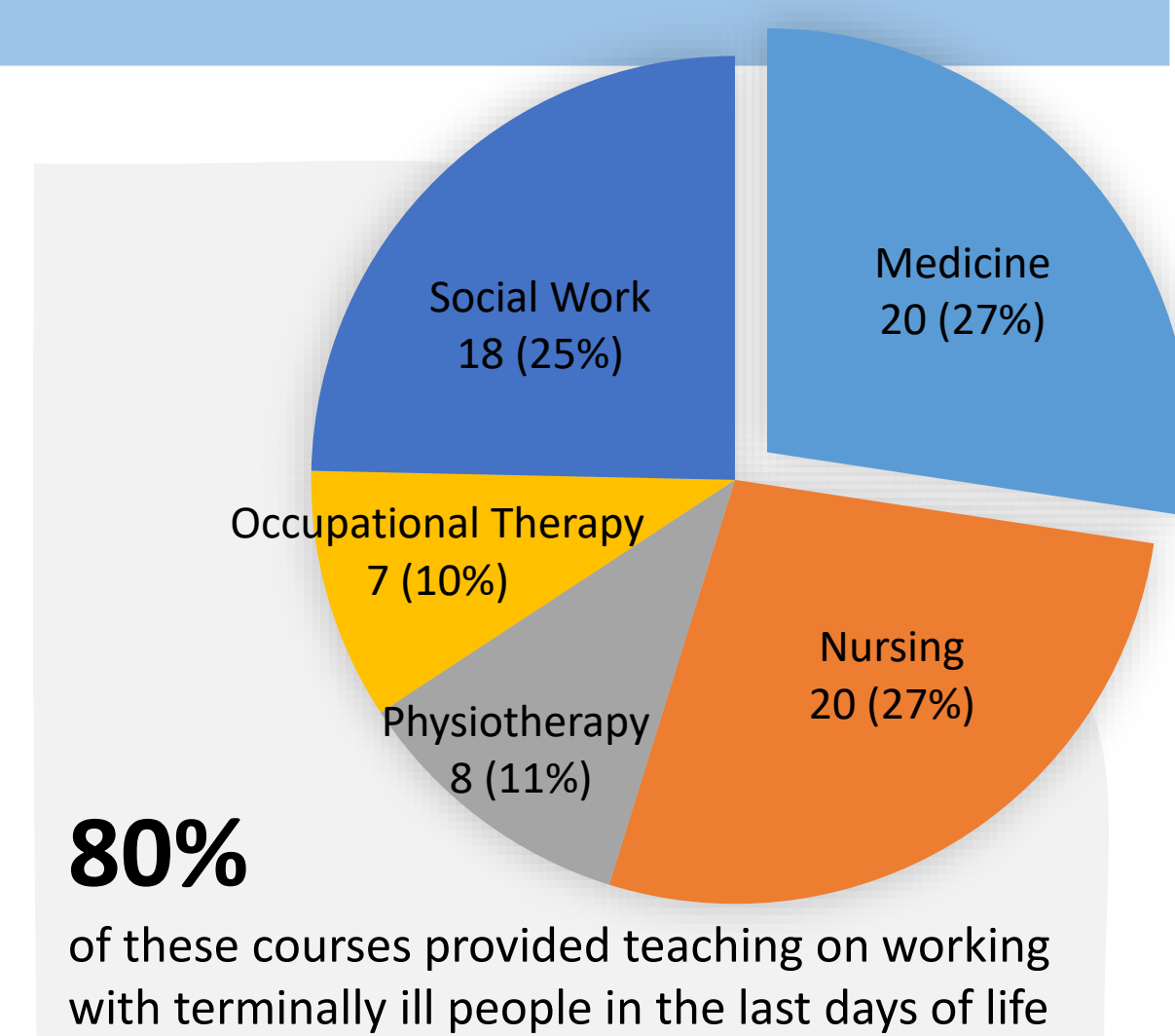
## 3. Results

**198**

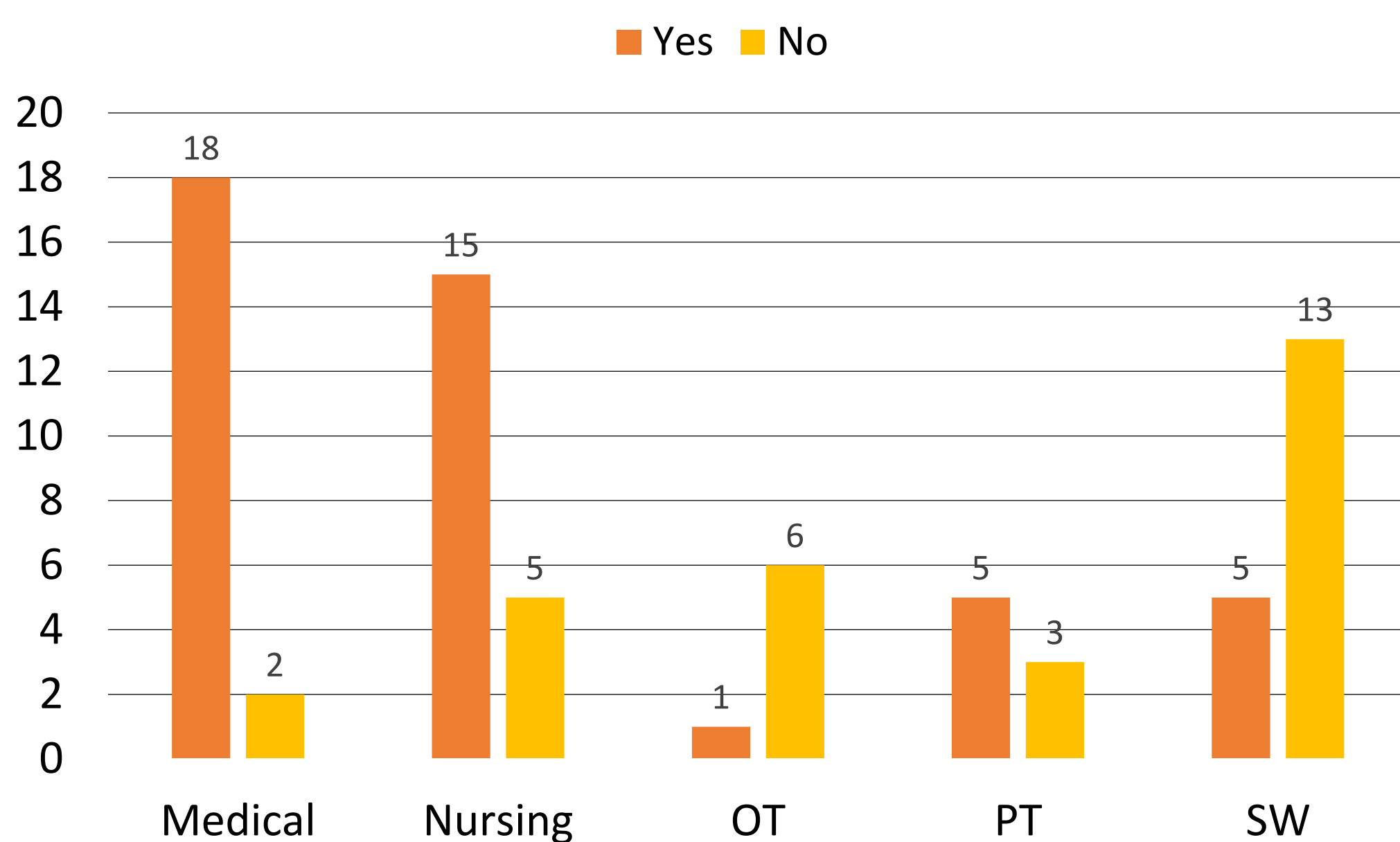
contacted

**73** (37%)

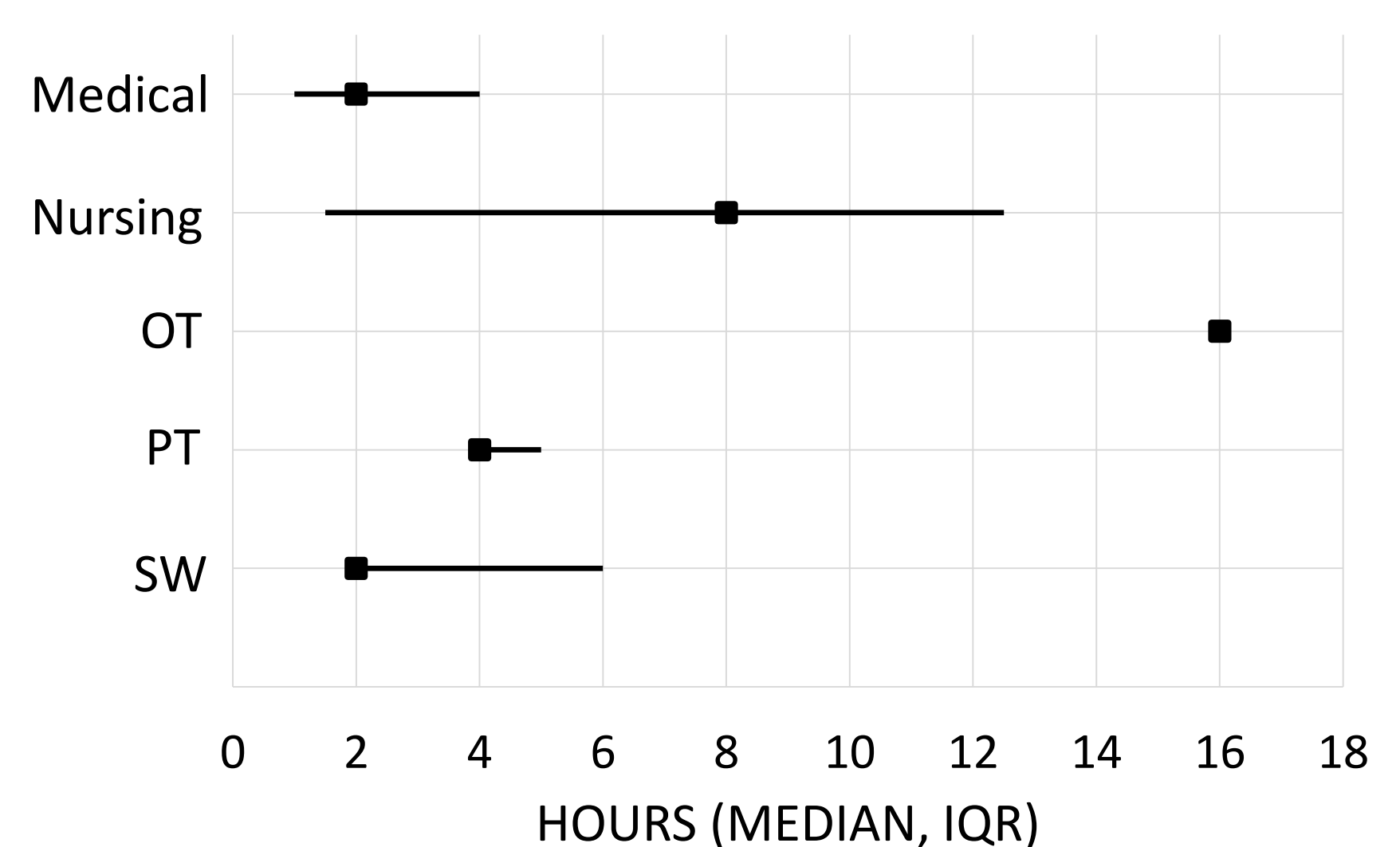
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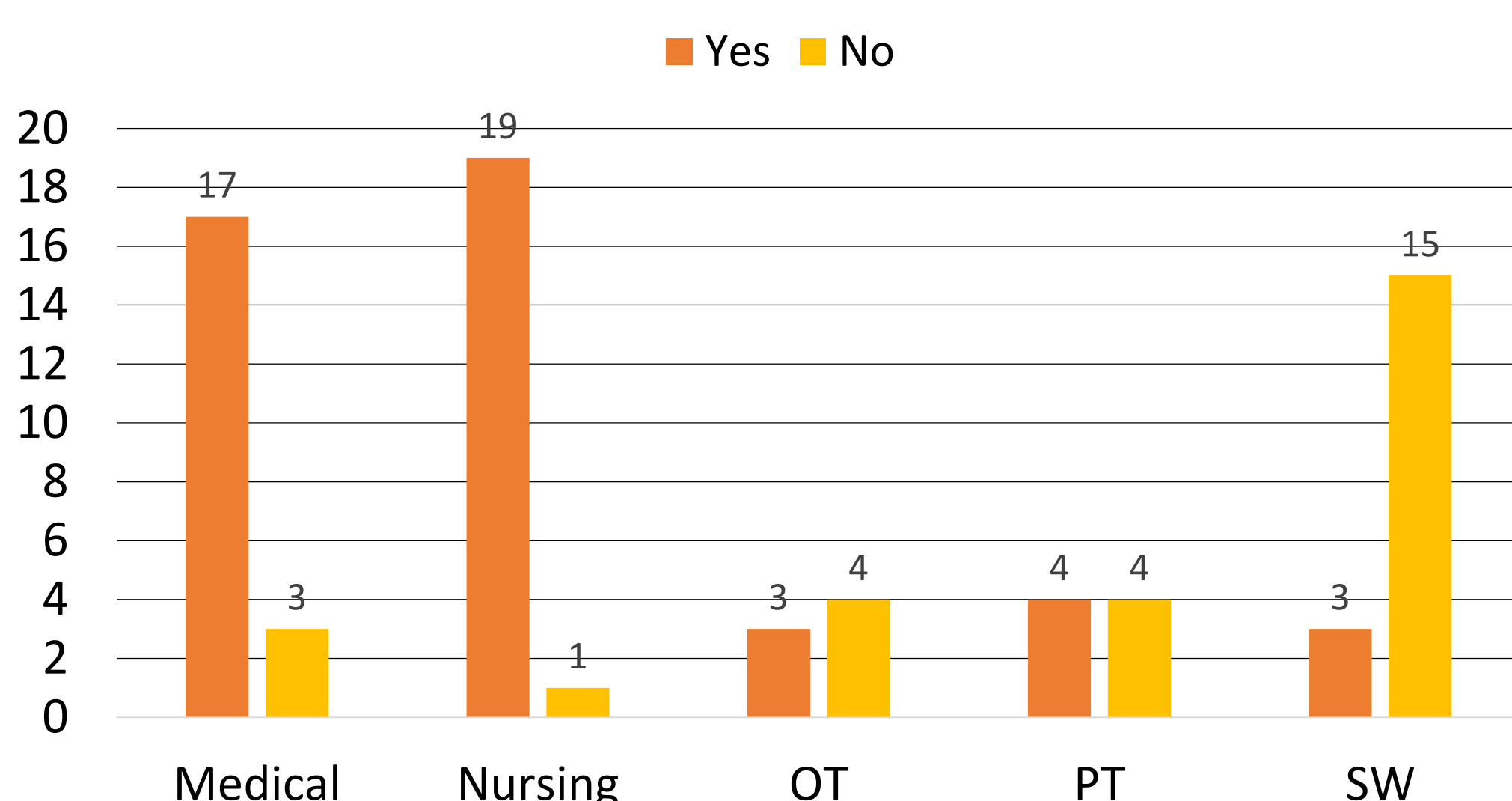
## 1 Do you provide any specific training on the **recognition of dying** in patients who are terminally ill?



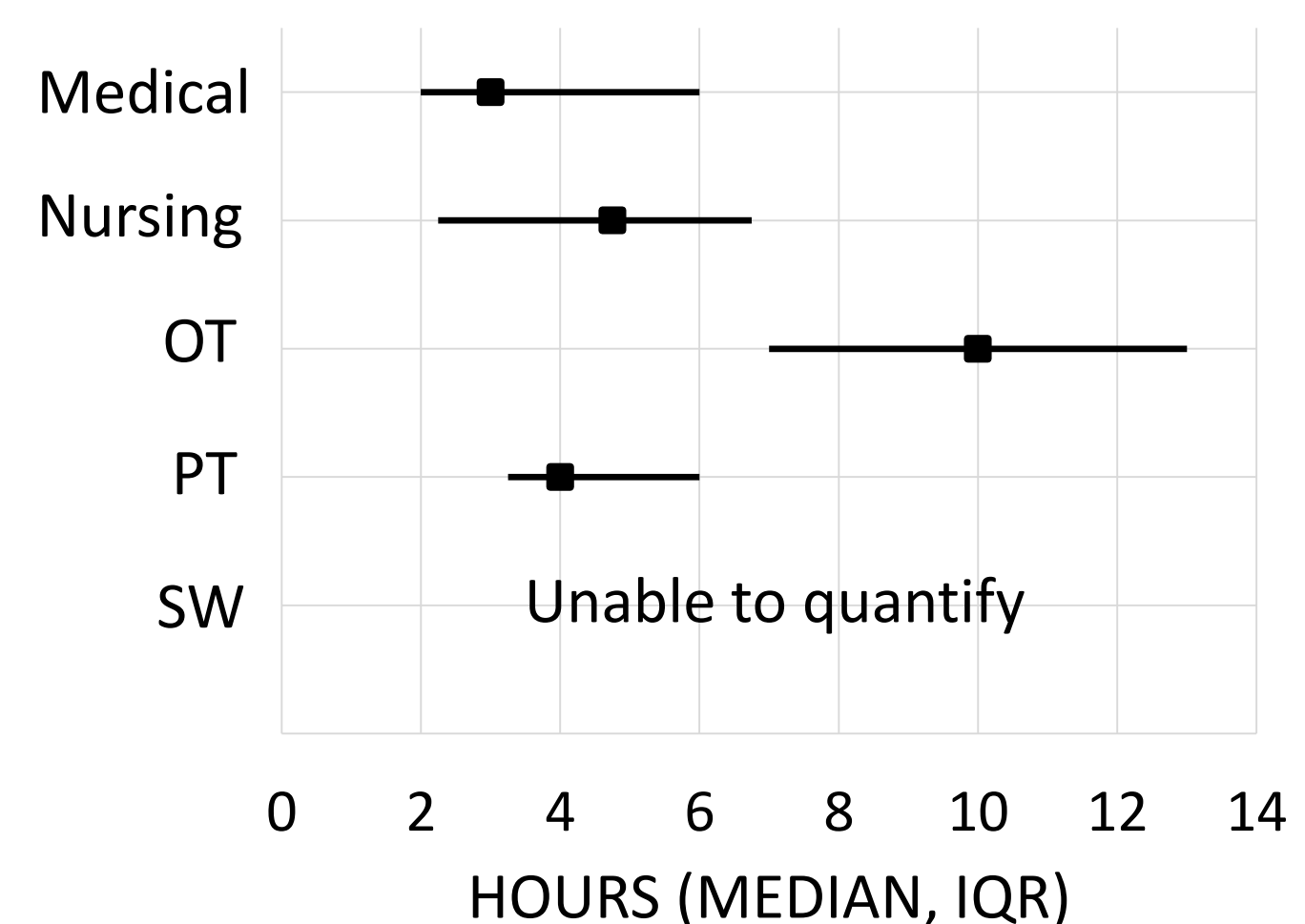
### How much **time** over the course?



## 2 Do you provide any specific training on **how to talk about prognoses** with patients who are dying and/or their relatives?



### How much **time** over the course?



## Feedback

Courses with more content about dying typically had a **champion**, with palliative care experience.



Time, Resources, and funding were key barriers which limited the opportunity to include more in the curricula across all specialties.



## 4. References

1. Neuberger, J., Guthrie, C. & Aaronovitch, D. 2013. More care, less pathway: a review of the liverpool care pathway. In: department of health.
2. Office For National Statistics (ONS) 2018. Living longer: how our population is changing and why it matters.
3. Marie Curie. A guide to end of life services [Available from: <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/professionals/palliative-care-knowledge-zone/a-guide-to-end-of-life-services> accessed 10/10/2018.

