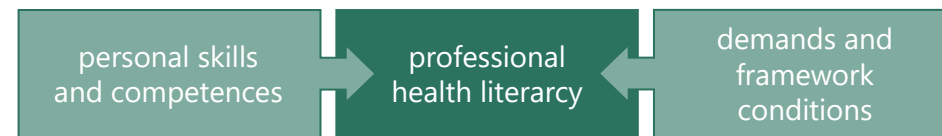


Professional health literacy of health professions in Austria - results of the HLS-PROF-AT study

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PROFESSIONAL HEALTH LITERACY

- competence and ability of health professionals to strengthen the health literacy of their patients
- encompasses competencies related to
 - information and knowledge management
 - conveying information and knowledge
 - patient involvement and shared decision-making
 - professional digital health literacy

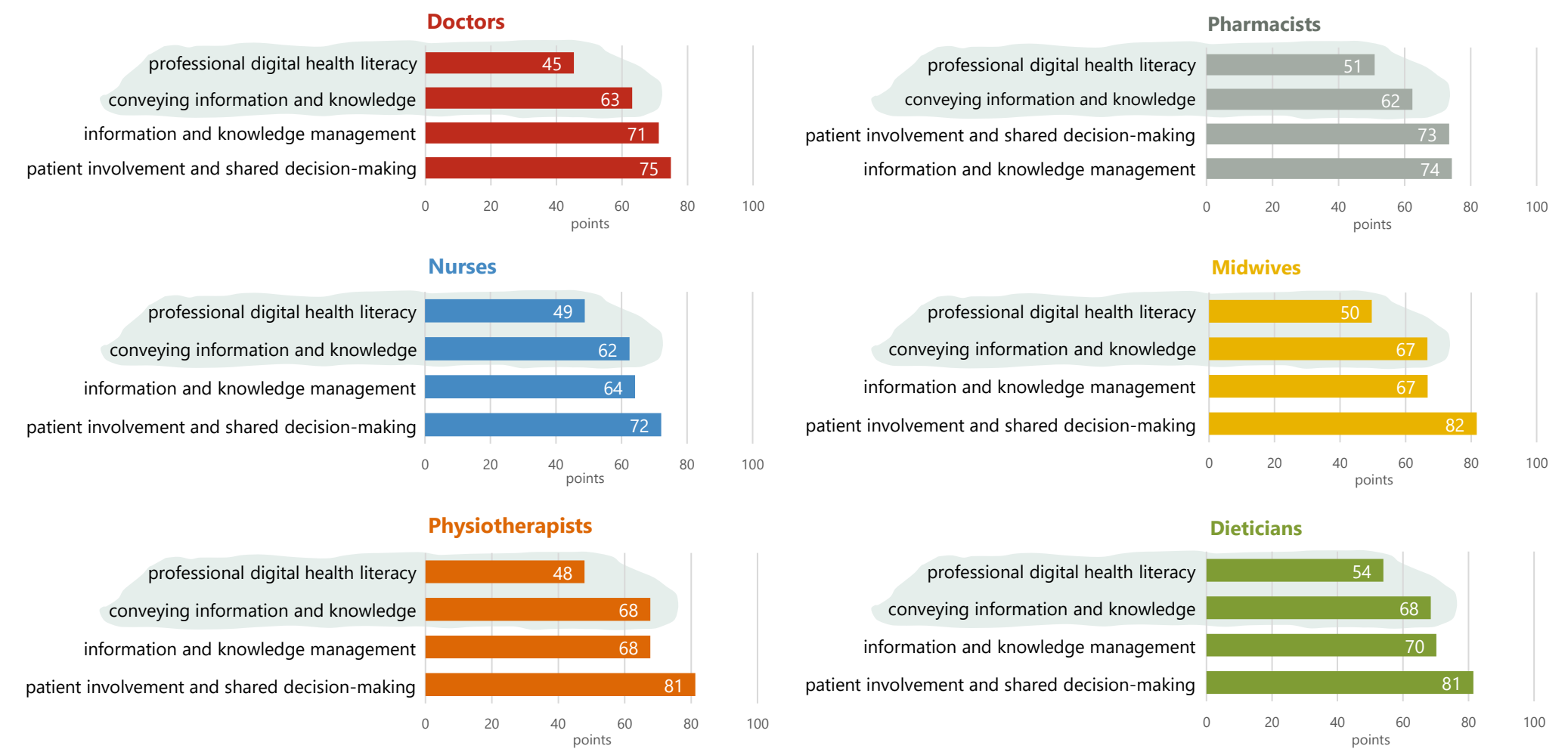


Greatest challenge for all health professionals:

- supporting patients in dealing with digital information
- conveying information and knowledge

Least difficulties for all health professionals except pharmacists:

- patient involvement and shared decision-making



online surveys (CAWI); convenient samples

Year	n	808 doctors	2.723 nurses	345 physiotherapists	137 pharmacists	178 midwives	177 dieticians
2022	n=3.876						
2023	n=492						

- The results demonstrate no systematic correlation between professional health literacy and years of professional experience → no learning on the job
- High level of professional health literacy is associated with
 - more favourable organisational conditions for health literacy-promoting patient communication
 - (very) good preparation in training for the tasks of professional health literacy

Conclusion:

- The greatest challenge is to support patients in dealing with digital information and to convey information and knowledge to patients.
- Good preparation in training and favourable organisational conditions are associated with higher professional health literacy.

Recommendations:

- Alongside promoting professional health literacy in the context of (further) training, it is important to enhance organisational framework conditions for promoting patients' health literacy (especially in the inpatient sector) - ideally supported by initiatives to promote the organisational health literacy in healthcare organisations.

