

# Physiotherapy provision for adult patients receiving VV

## ECMO: An international survey

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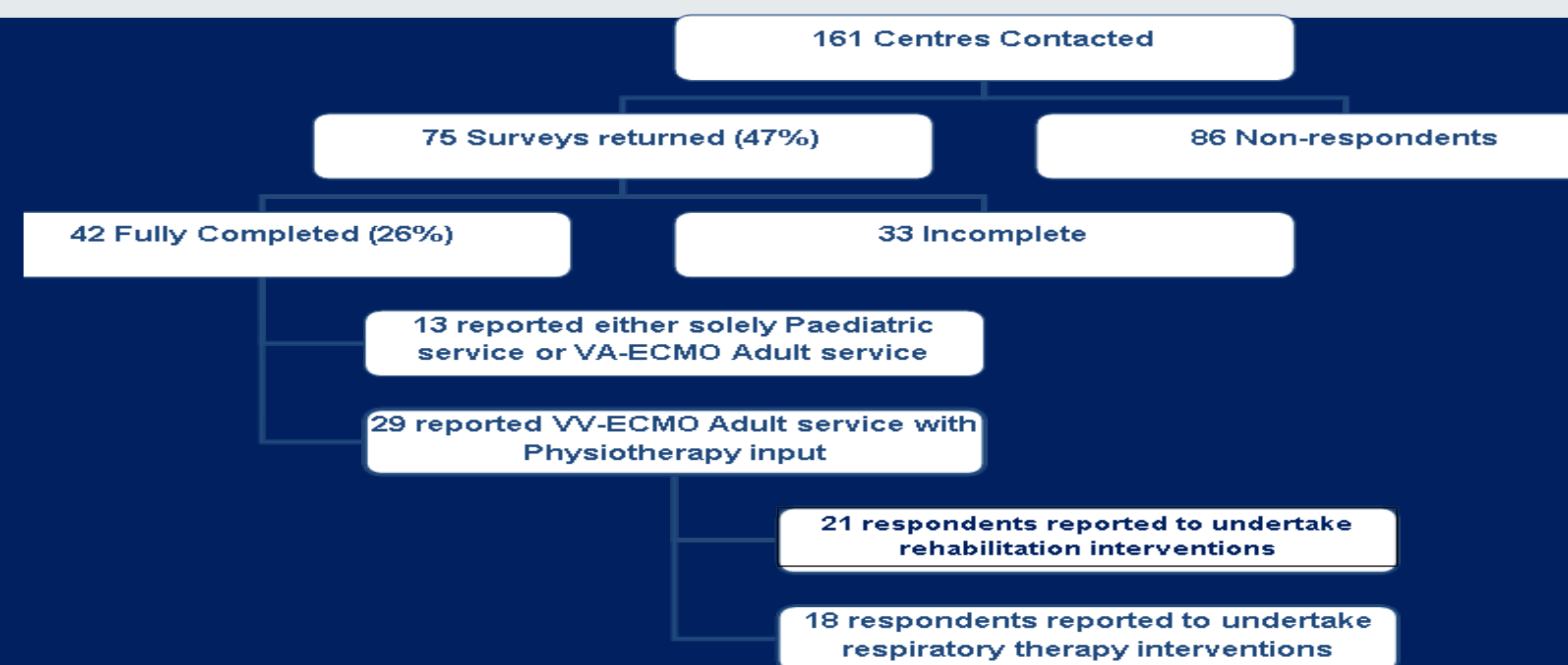
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### Background

The potential benefits of rehabilitative and respiratory physiotherapy during Extra-Corporeal Life Support (ECLS) have been reported (1). Although there is an acceptance that physiotherapy is beneficial for patients under ECLS, there are no internationally accepted guidelines, this is likely to result in significant heterogeneity between centres. Our aim was to explore the provision of physiotherapy in VV ECLS centres internationally

### Methods

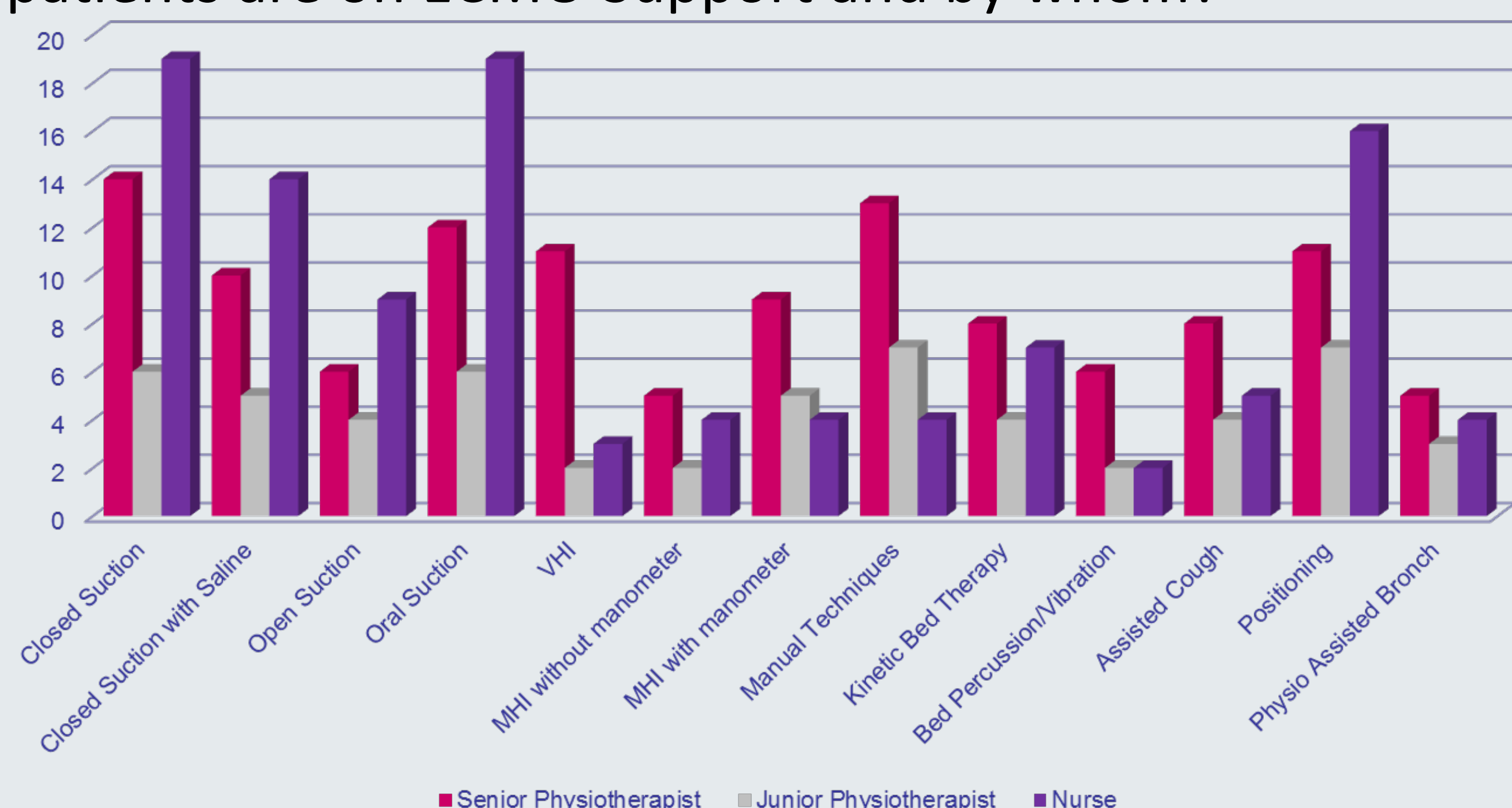
Survey questions were developed through an iterative process and assessed for content and face validity. The resulting 31-question online survey was emailed to 161 eligible ECMO centres using Smart Survey® (Smartline International Ltd, Gloucestershire, UK). Sole paediatric centres were excluded. The need for informed consent was waived by the local research and ethics committee



### Results

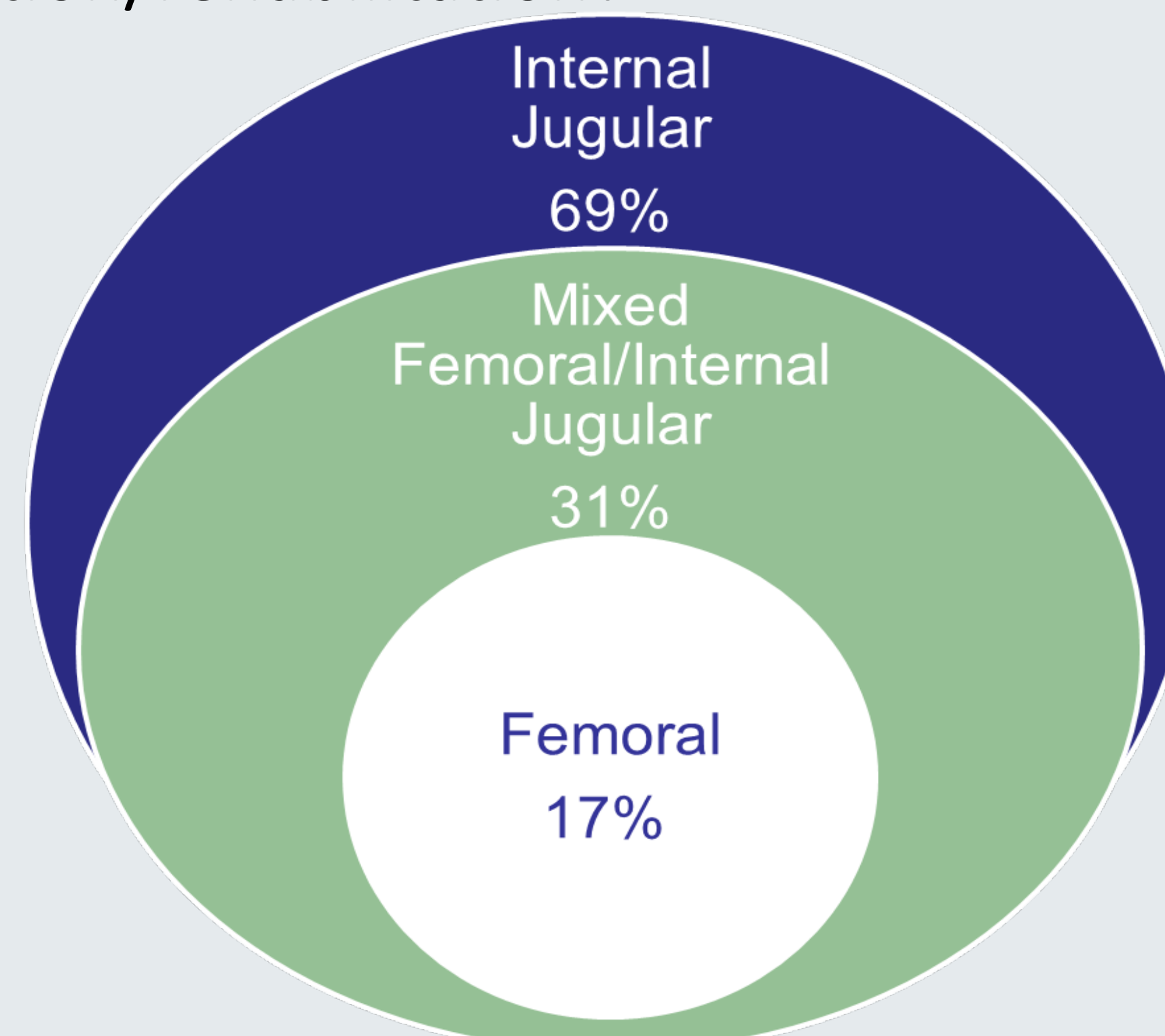
#### Respiratory

Which respiratory treatments are undertaken when patients are on ECMO Support and by whom?

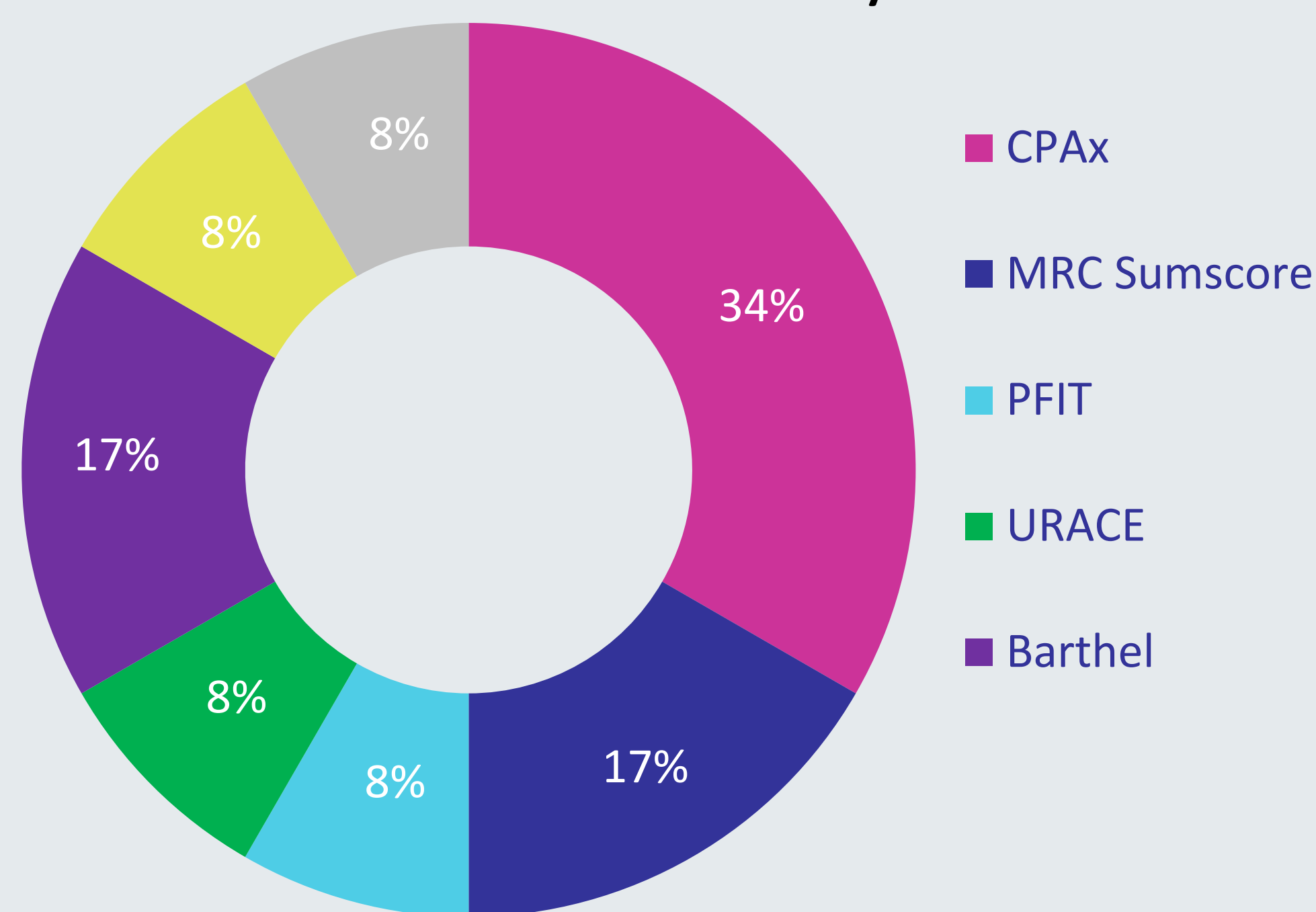


#### Rehabilitation

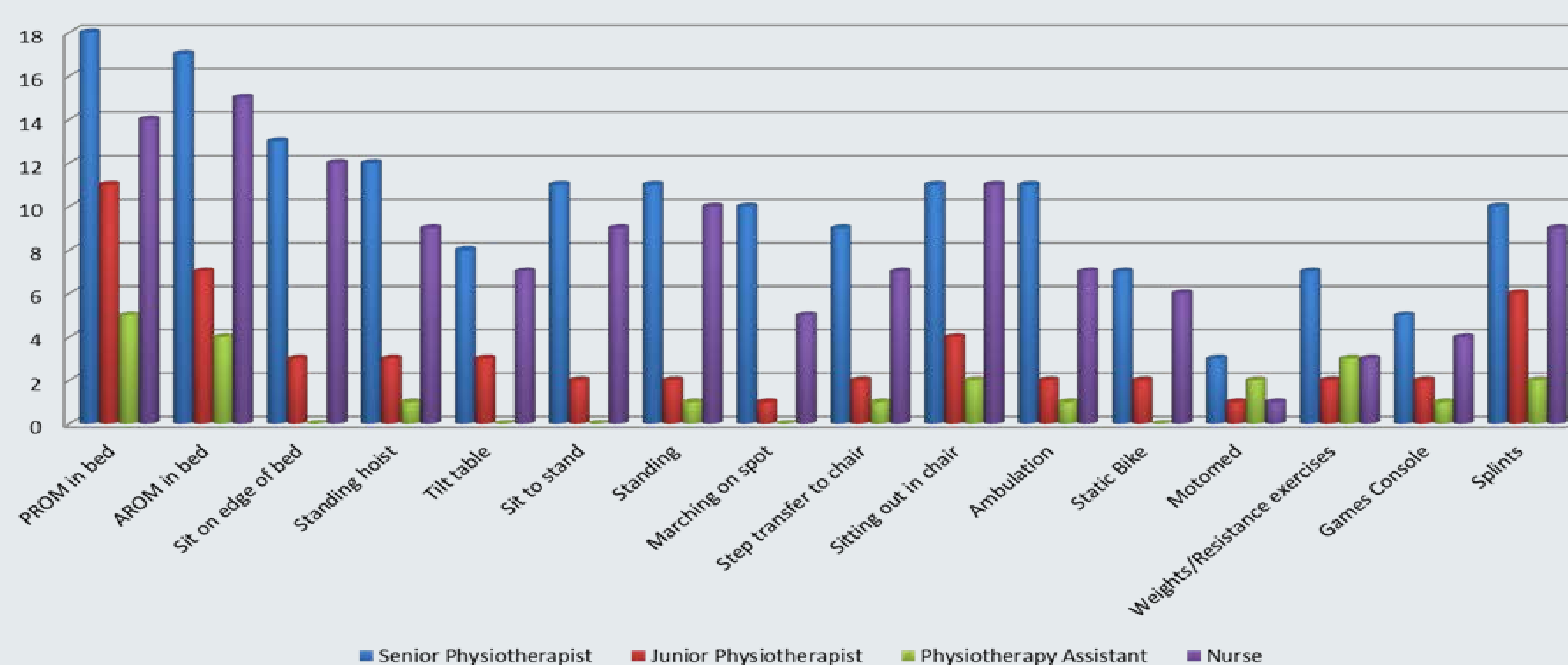
Which cannulation sites do you consider to be feasible for mobilisation/rehabilitation?



Which outcome measure do you use?



What rehabilitation techniques are undertaken with the ECMO population and who undertakes these techniques?



### Conclusion

Physiotherapy was reported to be widely used during ECLS for respiratory and rehabilitative therapy. Significant variations in approach to physiotherapy were reported. Physiotherapy provision could be best enhanced by further research on the efficacy and outcomes associated with physiotherapy for ECLS as well as the development of international consensus guidelines

References 1. Polastri, M., Loforte, A., Dell'Amore, A., and Nava, S. (2015) Physiotherapy for Patients on Awake Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation: A Systematic Review. *Physiother. Res. Int.*, doi: 10.1002/pri.1644.1