

What is restricted and who decides?

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Background

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, evolving literature and emerging therapies have led to significant controversies on what constitutes optimal therapy for hospitalized patients with COVID-19.
- In addition, multiple guidelines emerged exhibiting variable recommendations in key areas of therapeutic management.
- Thus, interpreting emerging data and deploying novel therapeutics during the pandemic has been challenging.
- Antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASP) have been proven to help promote evidence-based practices and are now common the United States (US).
- We seek to further understand the role of ASP during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods

- A survey was developed and disseminated through Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) IDea network, IDSA Antimicrobial Stewardship Centers for Excellence and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology messaging boards.
- Data collected included city, hospital size, facility type, and existence of active ASP.
- COVID-19 therapeutic restrictions and type of provider who decides on treatment allocation was surveyed.

Results

- A total of 92 surveys were completed, representing wide geographic reach within the United States (Figure 1).
- Hospital size by beds were 14% less than 200 (13), 18.5% 201-300 beds (17), 15.2% 301-400 beds (14), and 52.2% over 400 beds (48).
- Community hospitals accounted for 31.5% (29), county/public hospital 3.3% (3, 3.3%),
- University-affiliated Community-Based Teaching Hospitals 10.9% (10), University-based Teaching Hospital 45.7% (42), and 8.7% selected other. ASP were present in 97.2% of hospitals.
- COVID-19 therapeutic restrictions were common (Figure 2). Infectious diseases (ID) approval was required in 87.9% of facilities (Figure 3).

Figure 1. Geographic distribution of hospitals represented in the survey

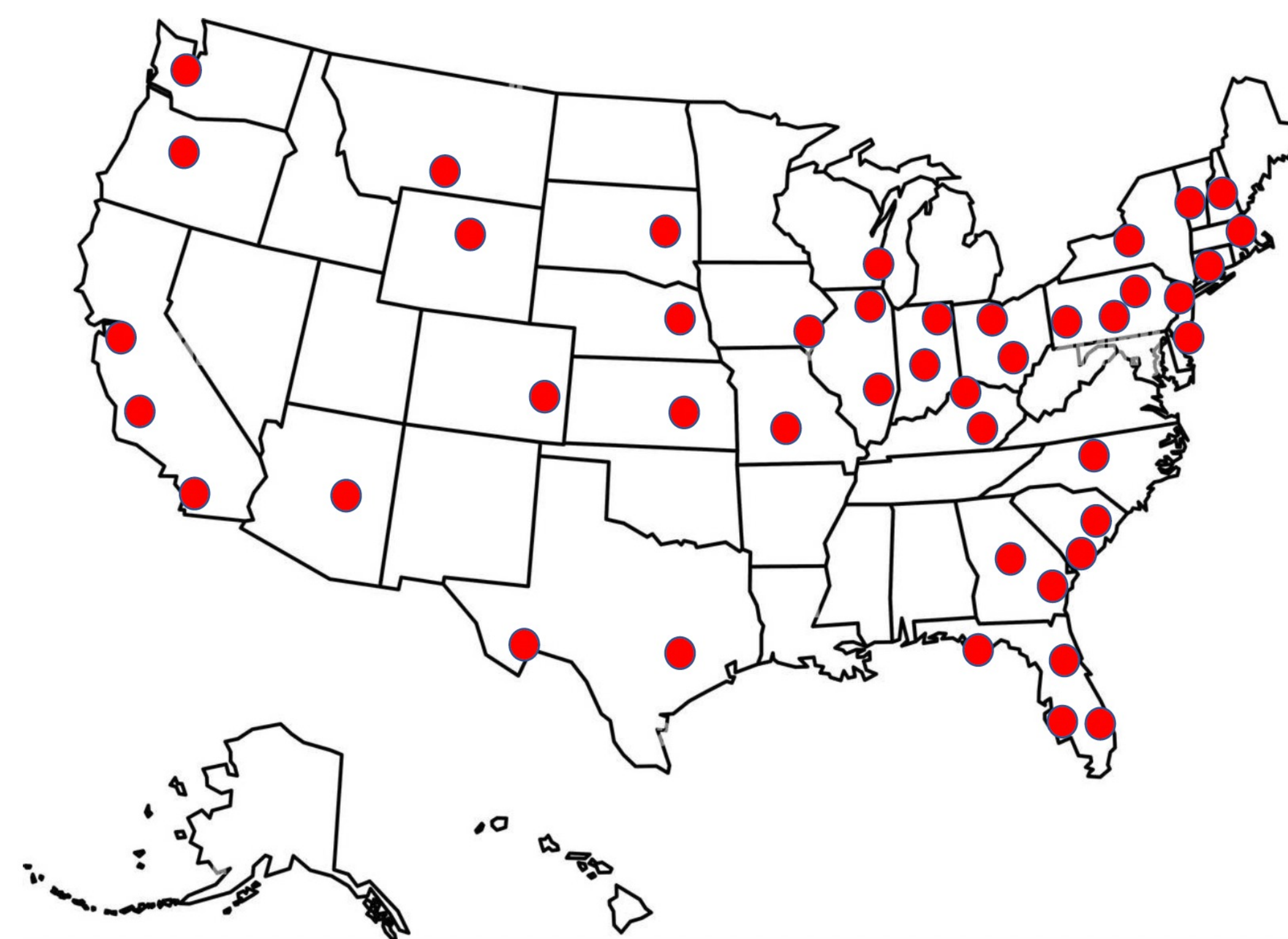
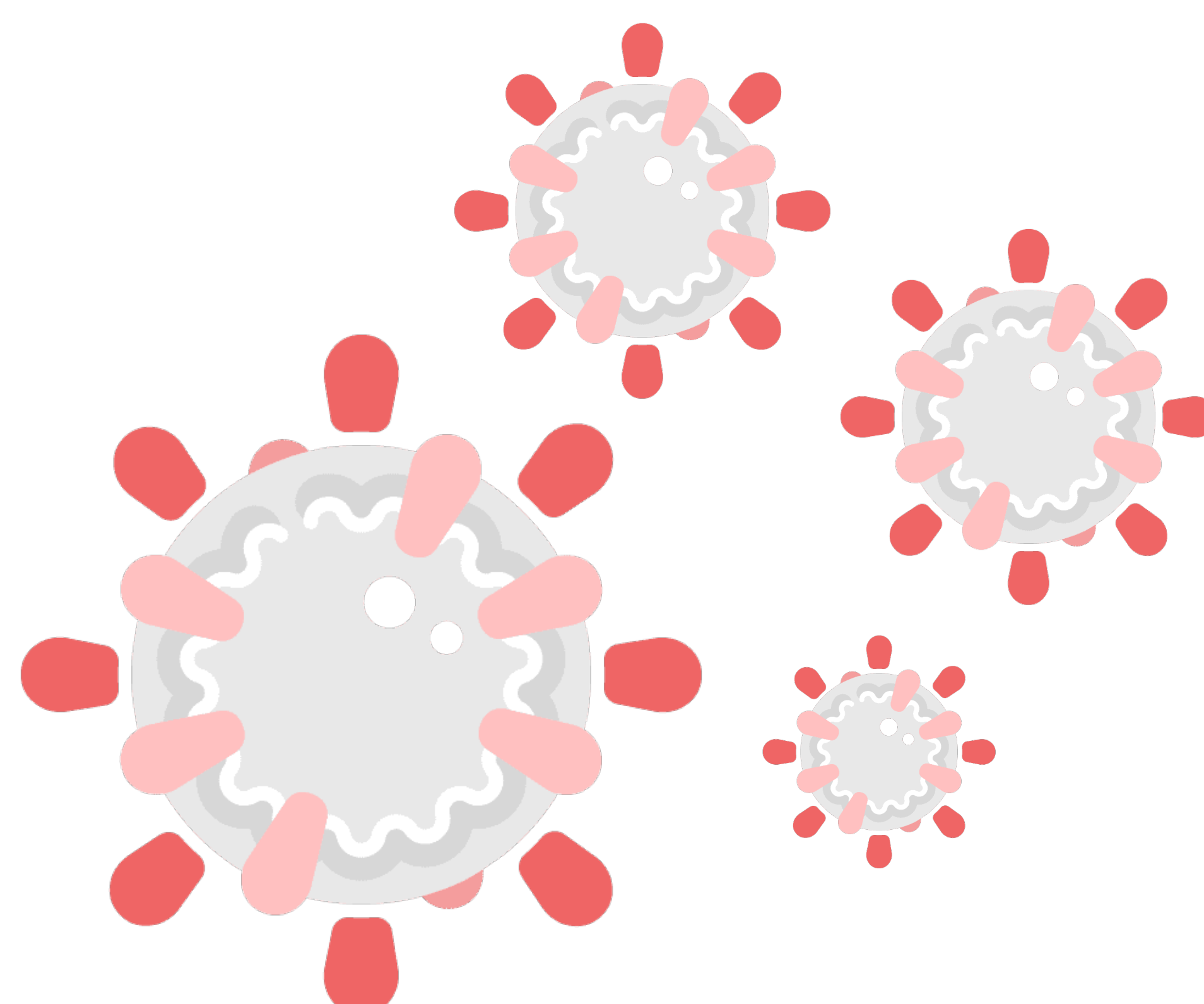
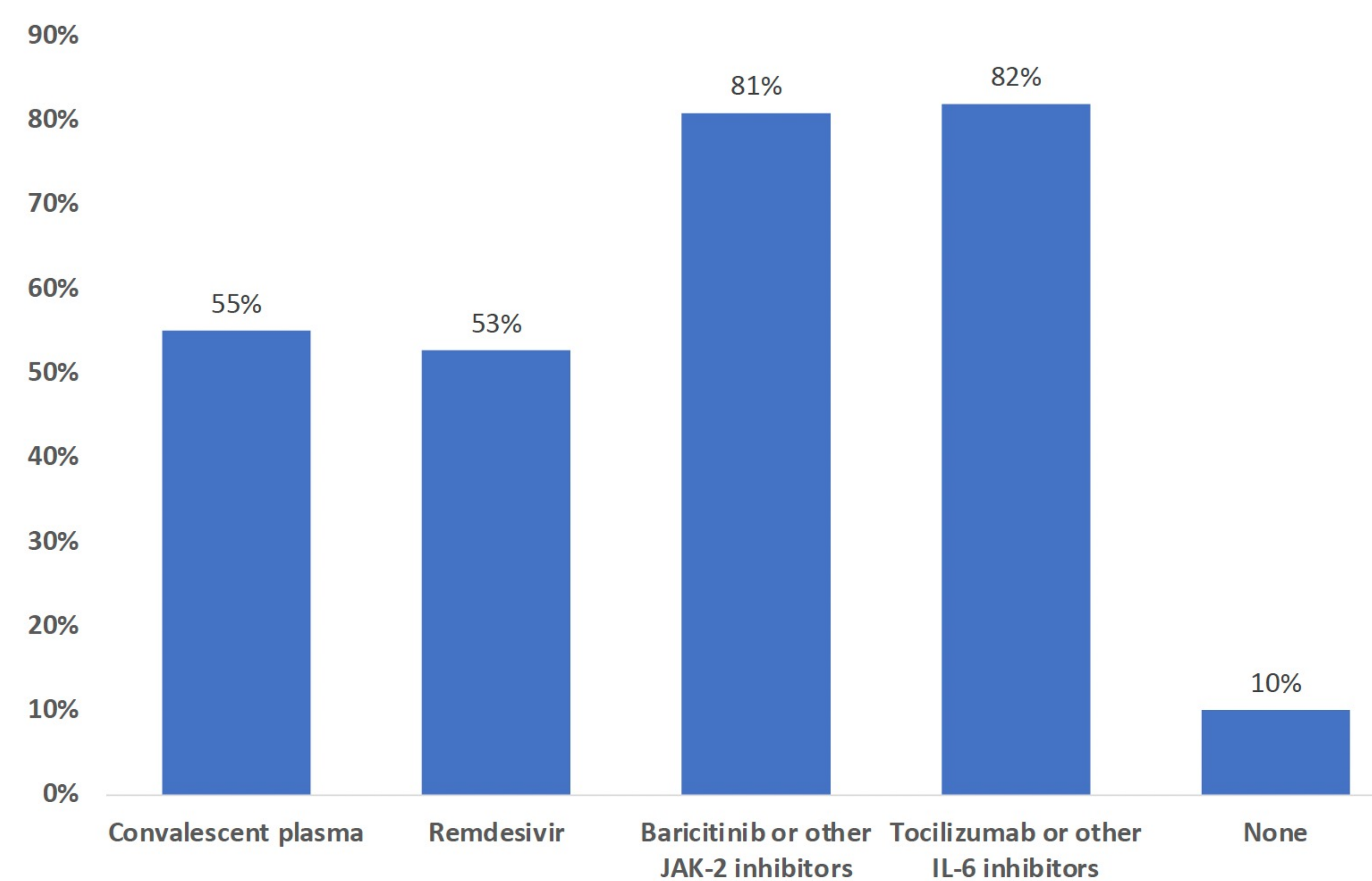


Figure 2. Restricted COVID-19 therapies by medication type (%)



Conclusions

- COVID-19 therapeutics were commonly restricted during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approval by ID clinicians was required almost universally (87.9%). The role of other specialties was significantly lower, representing less than 45% of hospitals.
- ID clinicians have played a vital role in guiding therapy and supporting ASP during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This survey highlights the value of ID clinicians to healthcare systems in allocating resources and promoting evidence-based practices through ASP.

Figure 3. Specialties or providers that are able to order or approve restricted COVID-19 therapies (%)

