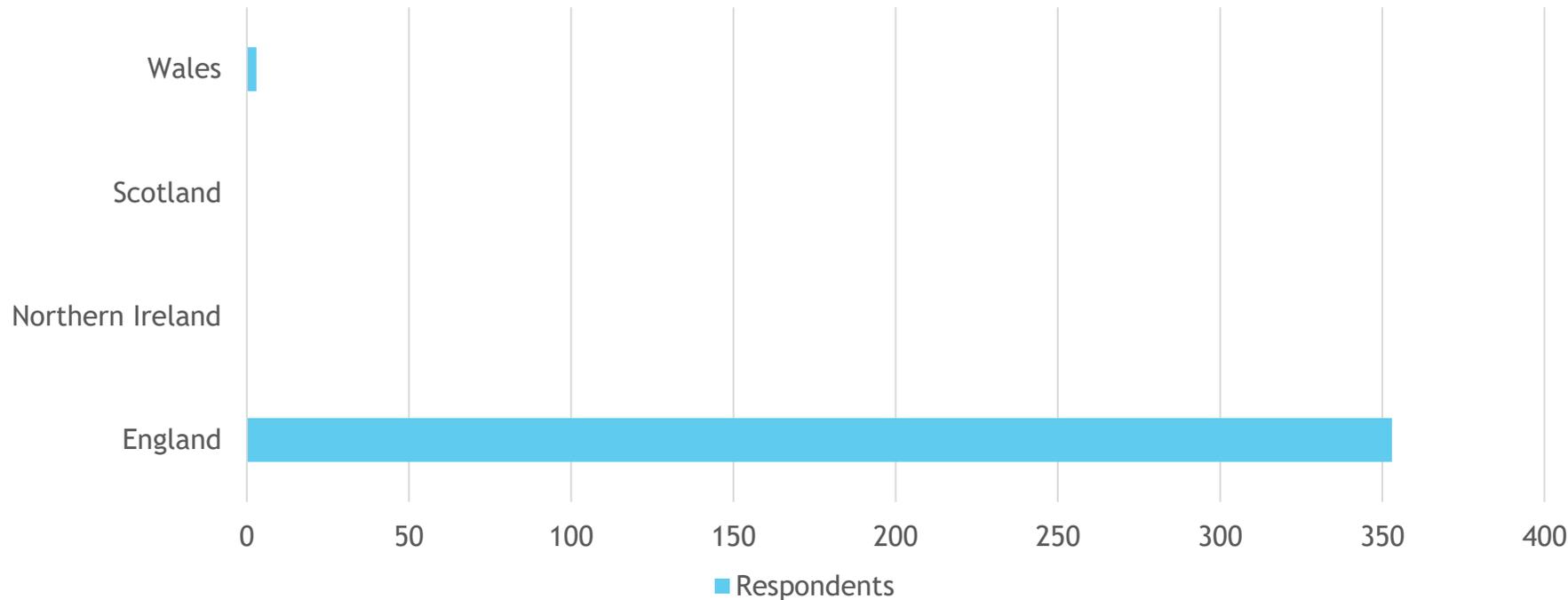




Prescription charges survey 2020

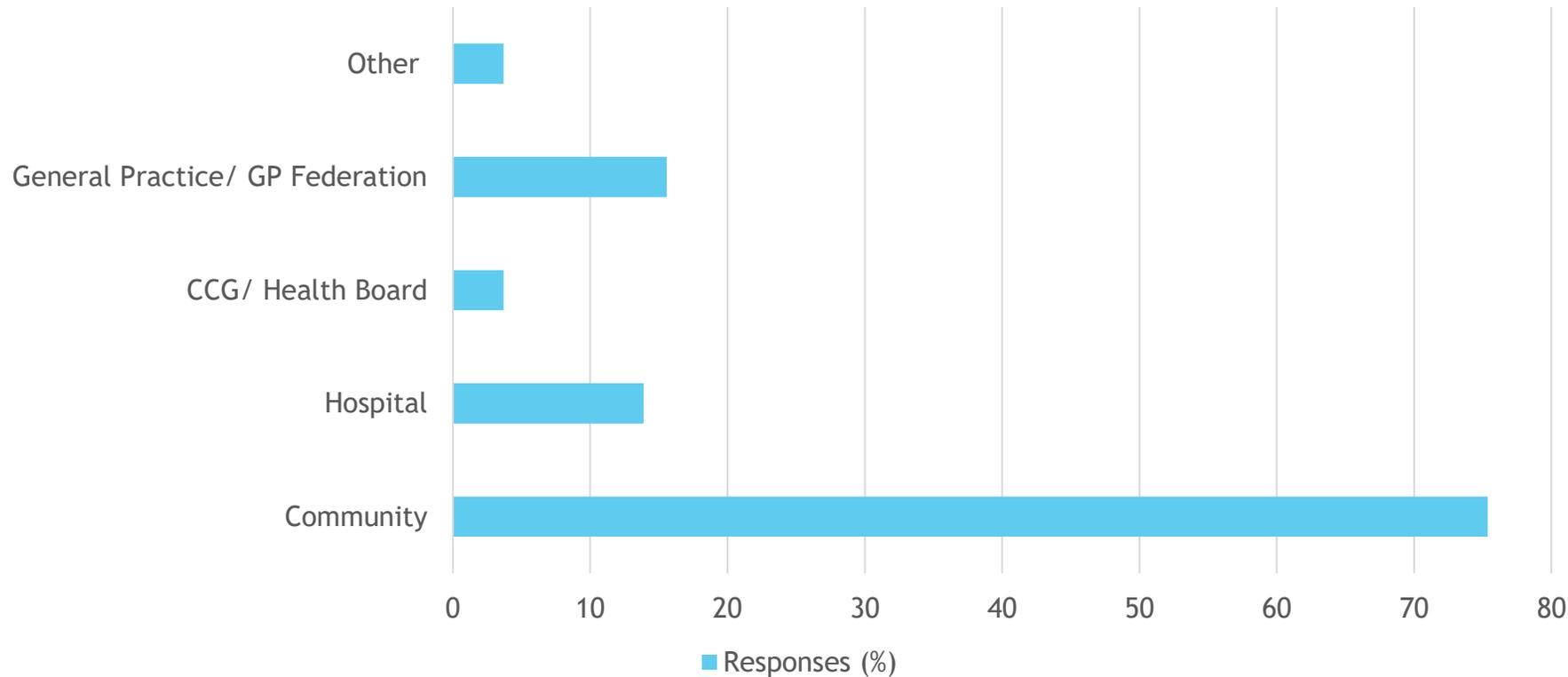
In association with the Prescription Charges Coalition

Which country do you work in?



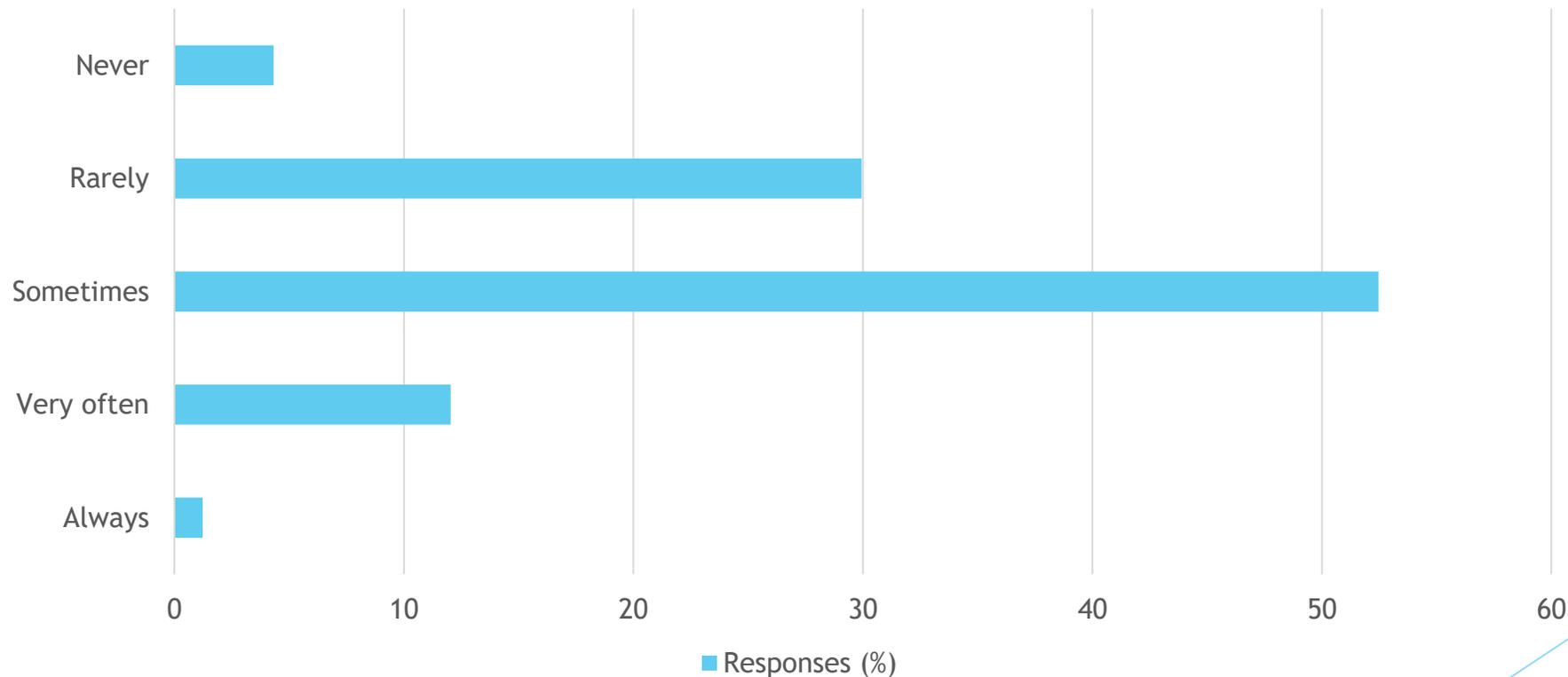
A total of 353 Pharmacists responded to the survey. The vast majority of respondents work in England, with 3 from Wales

Which sectors do you work in?



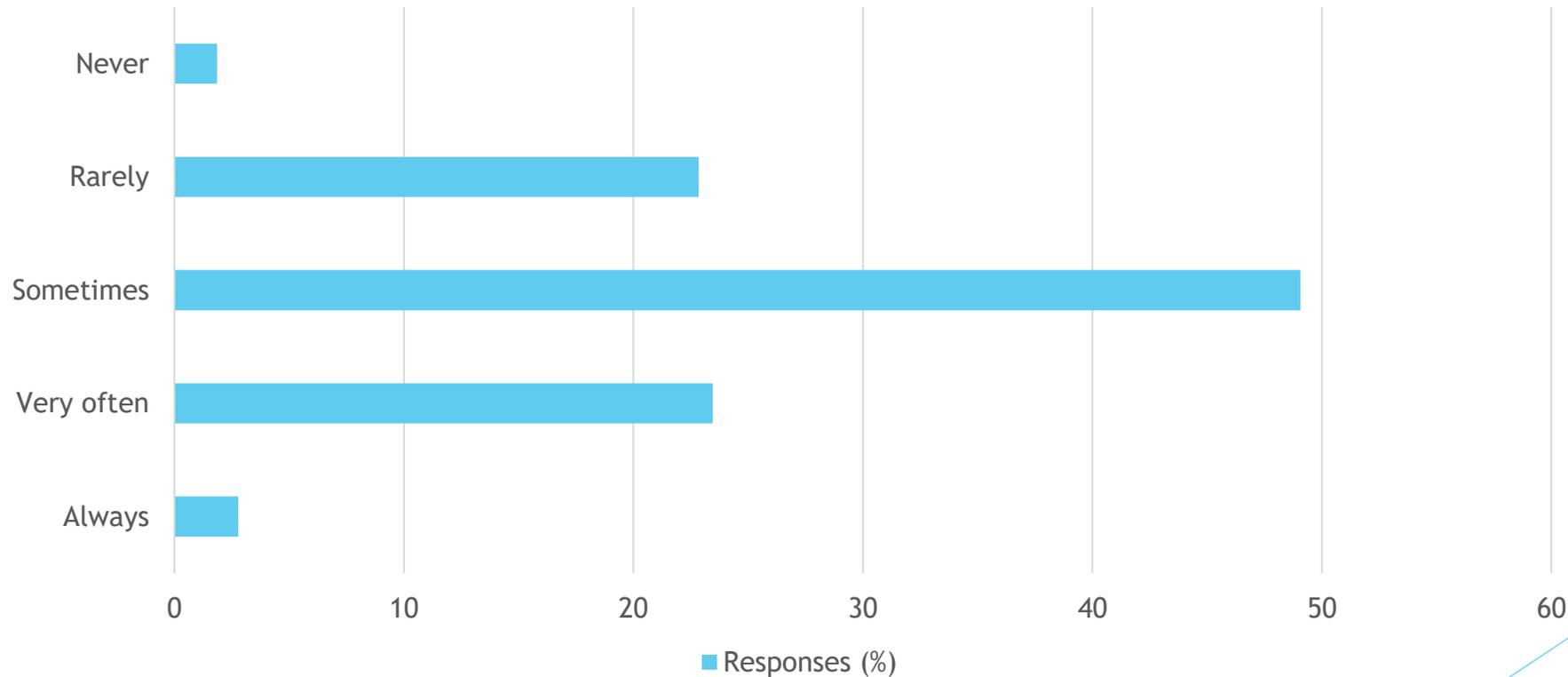
Over 75% of respondents came from community pharmacy, however, Pharmacists from all sectors responded

To the best of your knowledge how often does a patient decline a prescription due to the cost?



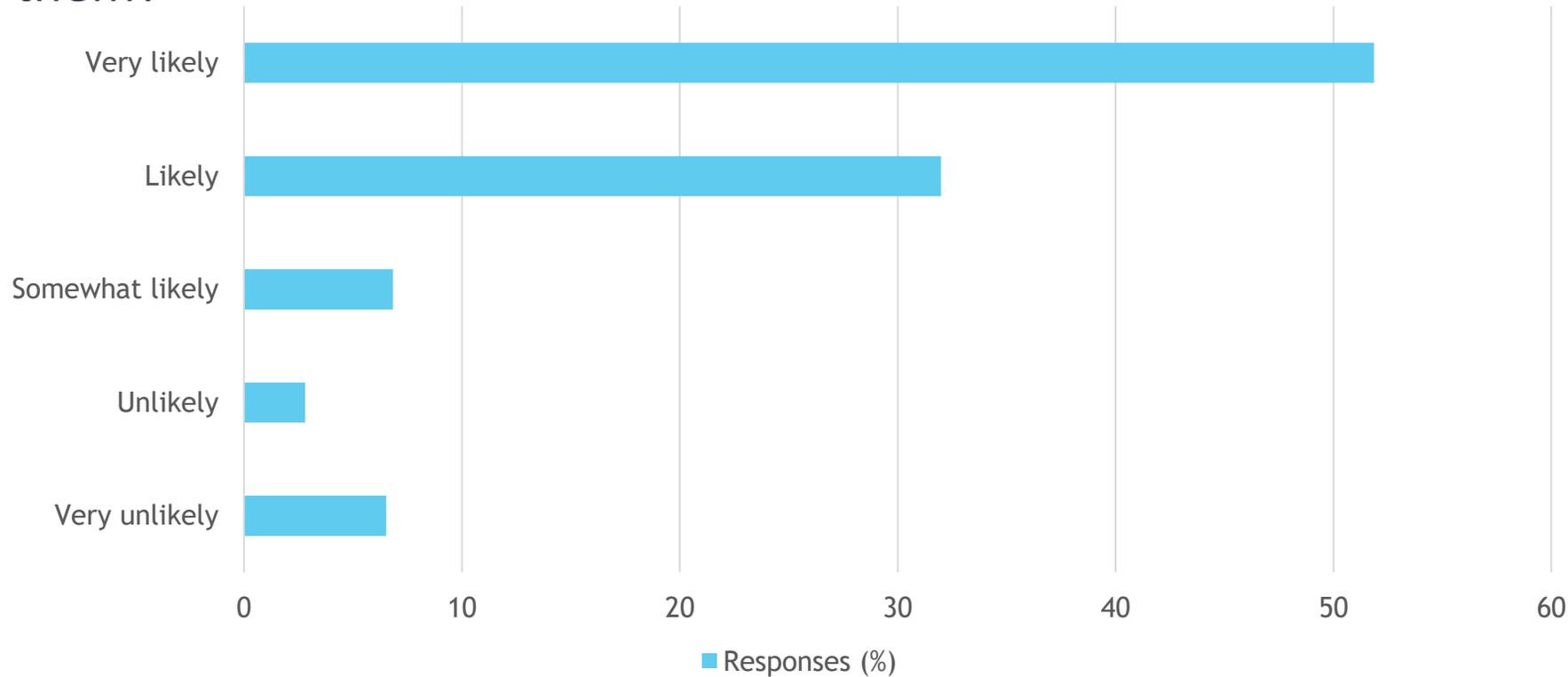
Just under 96% of Pharmacists had encountered situations where patients had declined a whole prescription due to cost

To the best of your knowledge how often does a patient decline part of a prescription due to the cost?



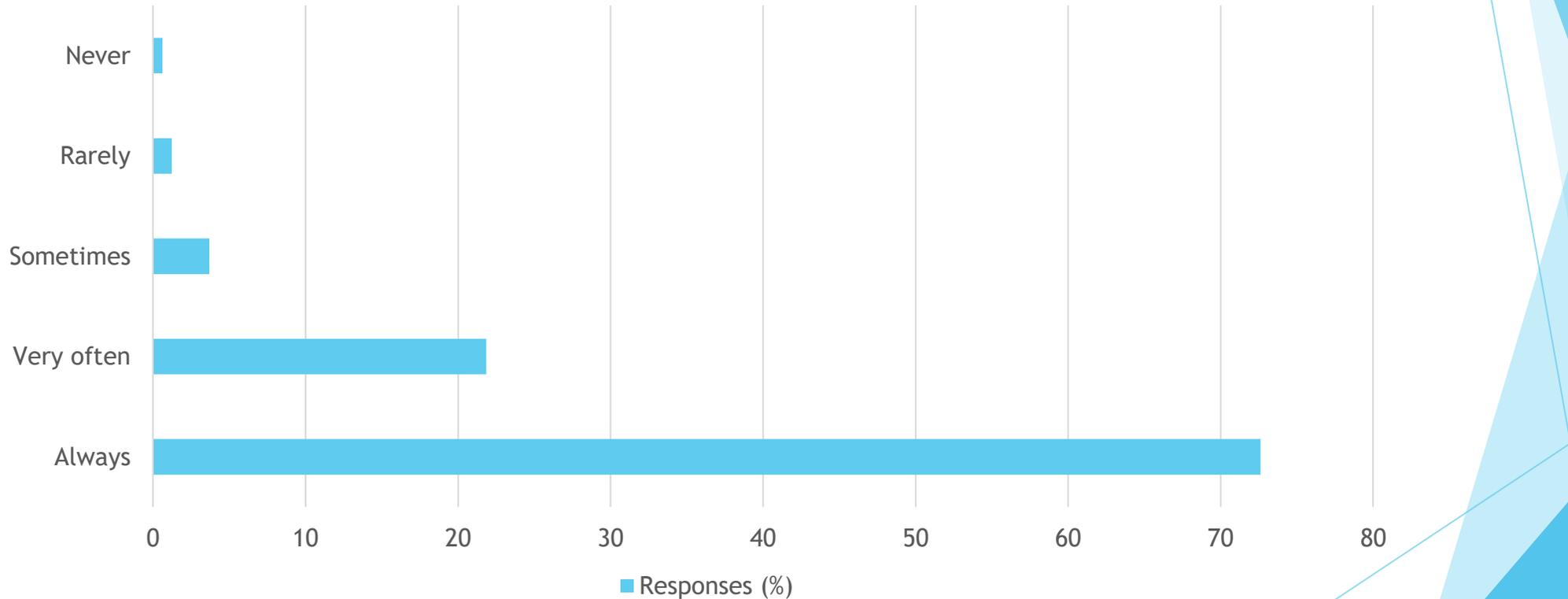
Over 98% of Pharmacists had encountered patients who declined part of a prescription due to cost

When a patient refuses a medication based on cost, how likely are you to counsel them on the key benefits they stand to gain by taking the medication and the risks associated with not taking them?



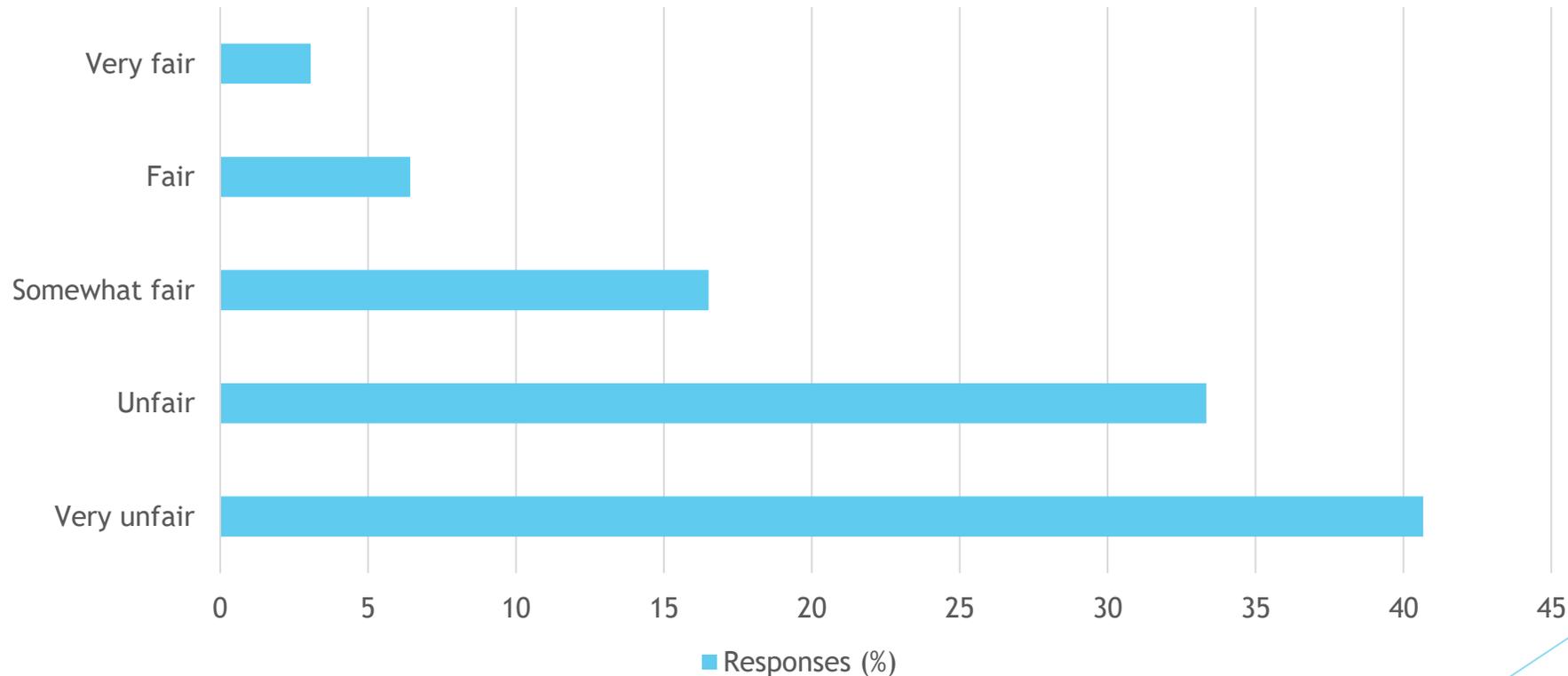
Over 90% of Pharmacists would use their professional knowledge to encourage patients to pay for and take their medication when faced with resistance due to cost

Do you inform your patients about spreading the cost of their medication by purchasing a pre-payment certificate?



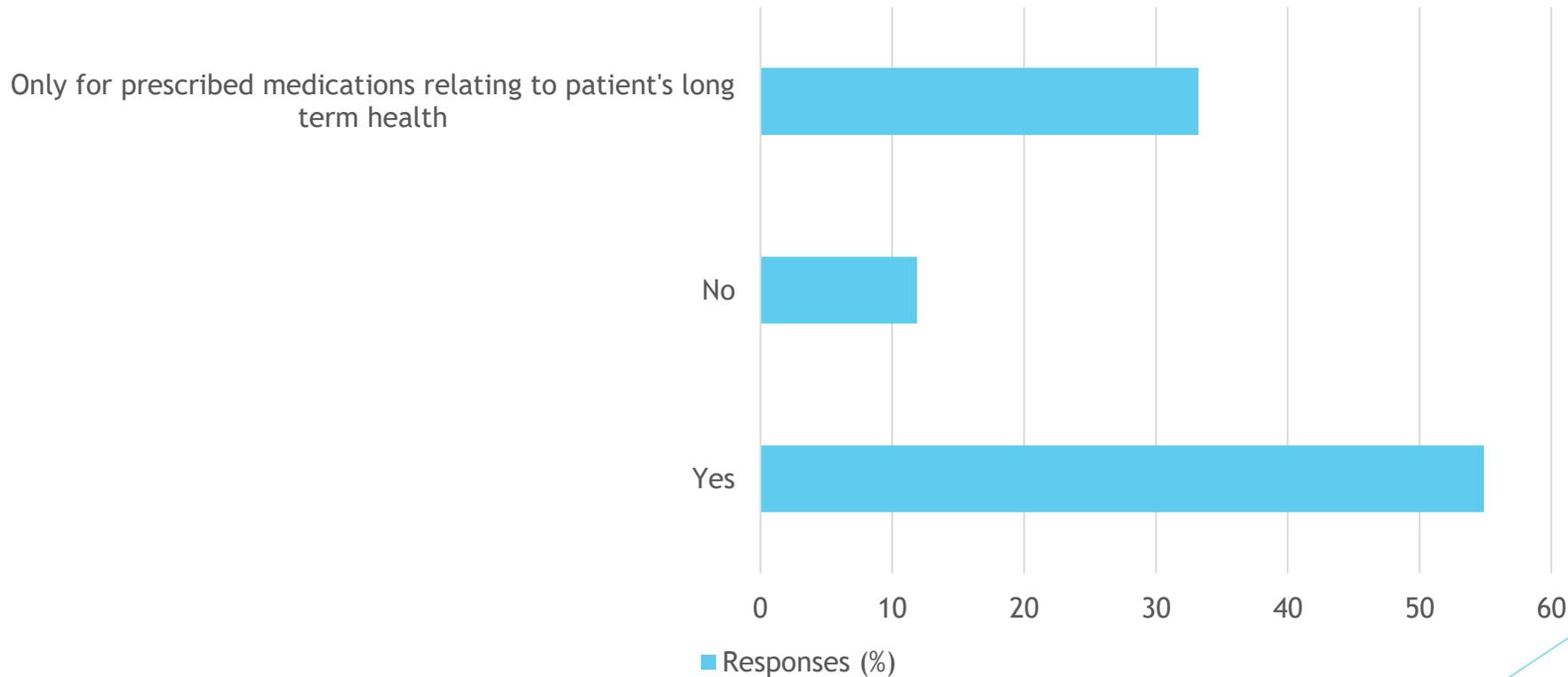
Nearly all Pharmacists in the survey recommended purchasing pre-payment certificates for patients who struggled to pay for multiple medications

How fair do you feel the current prescription charging system is in your country?



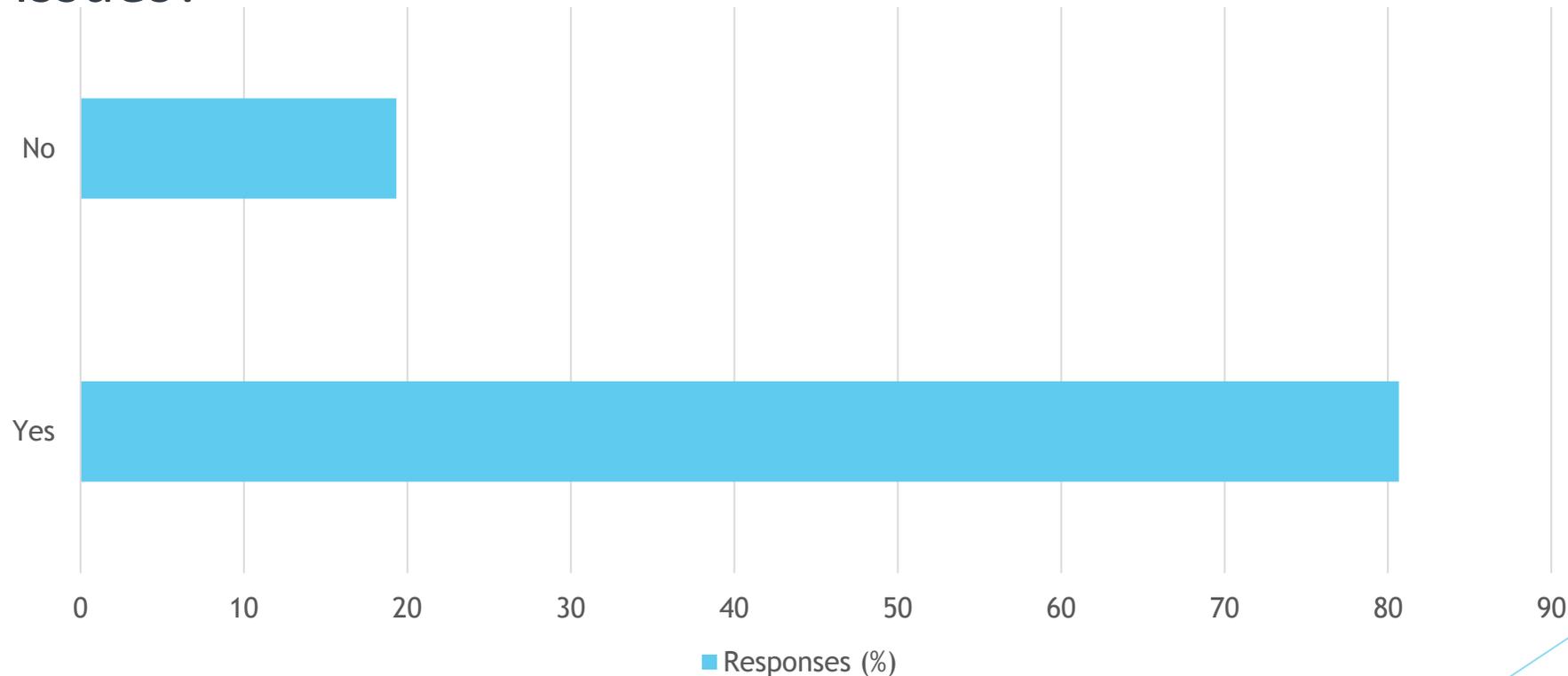
Less than 1 in 10 Pharmacists in the survey felt that the current prescription charging system is fair with over 90% describing it as unfair

Would you support a widening of the long-term medical conditions eligible for exemption from prescription charges?



Most pharmacists supported a widening of the long-term conditions eligible for prescription charges exemption, but there was also significant support for limiting the exemption exclusively to medications relating to the patient's long term health

Do you think broadening the range of patients eligible for free prescriptions would lead to a reduction in incidents where patients decline prescriptions due to financial issues?



Over 80% of Pharmacists in the survey felt that broadening the range of patients eligible for free prescriptions would lead to a reduction in incidents where patients decline prescriptions due to financial constraints

If you feel it is unfair, what recommendation(s) would you make to improve the current system?

Persons who take ONE Levothyroxine daily can get a different array of items on prescriptions free which are NOT for treatment of thyroid related issues. Where as a person who takes multiple medications specifically only for lifelong, life limiting Crohn's disease or other IBD has to pay for a prepayment.

Charge smaller fees.
Review existing exemptions

Consistent charge spread across the UK whether it is not charge, or a charge

Those with long term conditions should not be charged, but at the same time, all people, should be encouraged to purchase cheap items such as paracetamol, loratidine, etc. over the counter.

Scrap the prescription charge completely, or charge everybody a nominal fee for each prescription

All patients with long term conditions such as asthma, CVD, should be included

Medical exemption inclusion criteria needs updating to include a range of long-term health conditions

A sample of comments made by respondents