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BLOOD TESTING PRACTICES IN HAEMODIALYSIS CENTRES IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND: A CROSS-SECTIONAL SURVEY STUDY

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Project team: Daniel Hirsch, Evan Mccauley, Donia George, **Ginger Chu**, Sradha Kotwal, Kelly Lambert, Jeffrey Ha.

RSA CONFERENCE MELBOURNE 2025

11-13 JUNE 2025

Six-weekly versus monthly blood testing in haemodialysis patients in regional Australia: a quality improvement, patient safety, cost saving and Green Nephrology initiative



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Background

Monthly high-volume blood testing is standard across most dialysis services in Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) although some units have adopted less frequent schedules. **Data on routine blood testing practices in ANZ haemodialysis centres is limited**.

Aim: characterising surveillance blood testing practices in ANZ haemodialysis units

We need your INSIGHT!

Who we are?

The INSIGHT program (ImplemeNting Safe, sustainable and cost-effective practice change In the care of Australians and New Zealanders receivinG Haemodialysis Therapy)

We would appreciate 10 minutes of your time to assist with our survey to characterise surveillance blood testing practices for patients receiving haemodialysis in your unit.

Please scan this QR code to complete our survey

This investigator-initiated survey is being co-ordinated through the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, NSW, Australia

This study is approved by SESLHD HREC: 2025/ET00882

Table 1. Survey responses

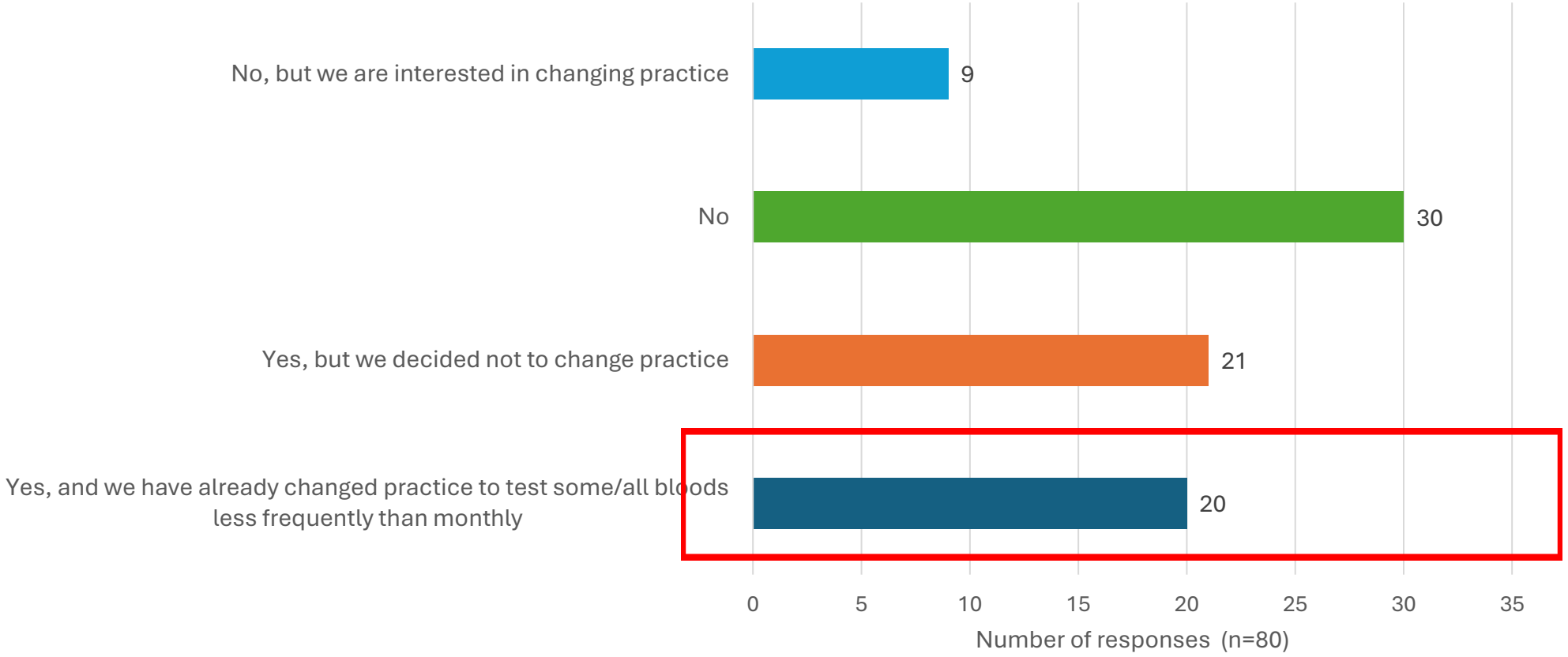
	Dialysis services			
	Individual responses	**Surveyed**	**Responded**	**Response rate**
New Zealand	27	15	13	87%
Australia	115	105	71	68%
Total	**142**	**120**	**84**	**70%**
By state				
ACT	1	2	1	
NSW	52	38	32	
NT	2	2	2	
QLD	25	30	17	
SA	2	3	2	
TAS	1	2	1	
WA	4	3	1	
VIC	20	24	15	
Unspecified	8			

By survey responder type (n=142)

	Medical	**Nursing**	**Not specified/Allied Health***
Australia	31	35	49
New Zealand	8	17	2
Total (%)	**39 (27%)**	**52 (37%)**	**51 (36%)**

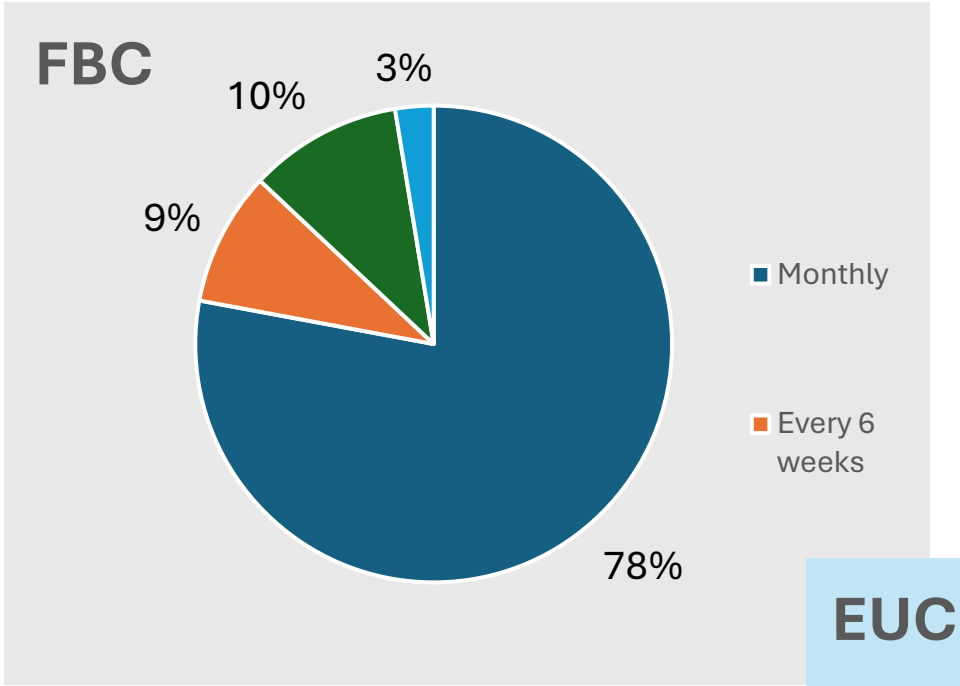
Abbreviations: ACT, Australian Capital Territory. NSW, New South Wales. NT, Northern Territory. QLD, Queensland. SA, South Australia. TAS, Tasmania. WA, Western Australia. VIC, Victoria.
* one respondent from Australia, and no respondents from New Zealand, identified as allied health. The remaining survey responders are not specified.

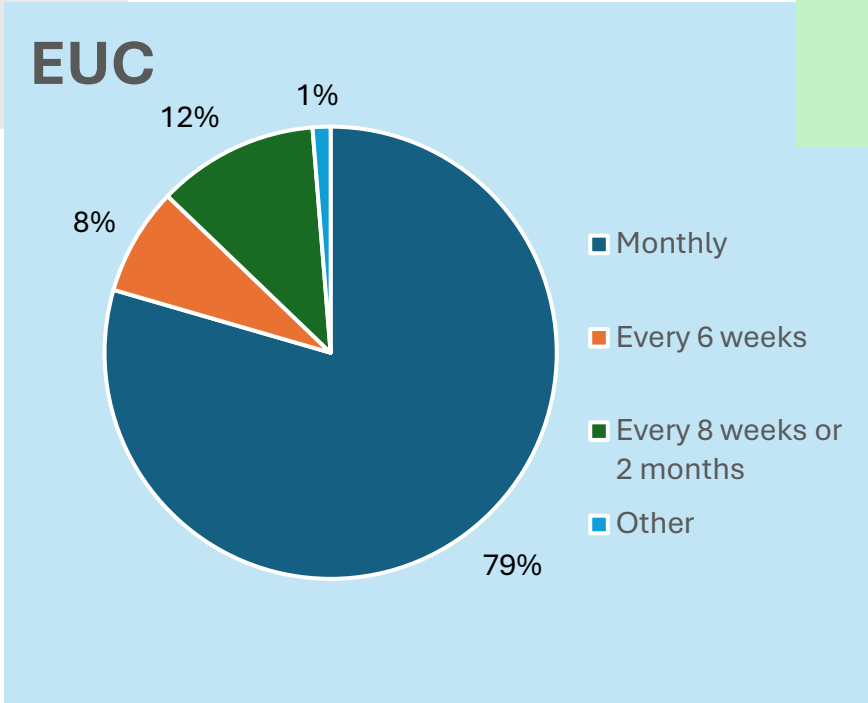
Has there been any discussion about performing blood testing for patients on haemodialysis less frequently than monthly?

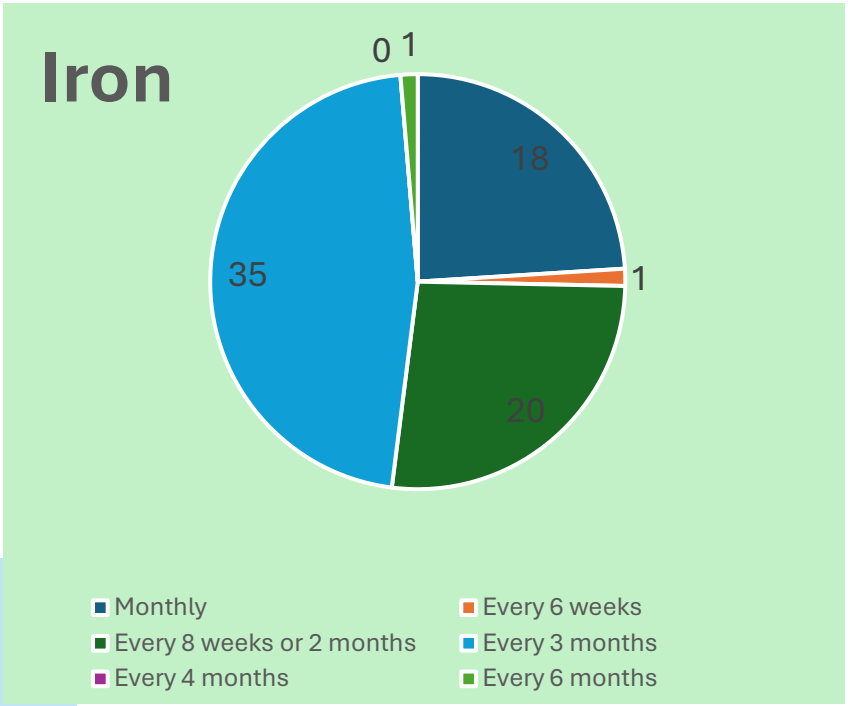


Of the 84 individual unit responses, 4 of these units did not respond to this question, leaving a total of 80 responses.

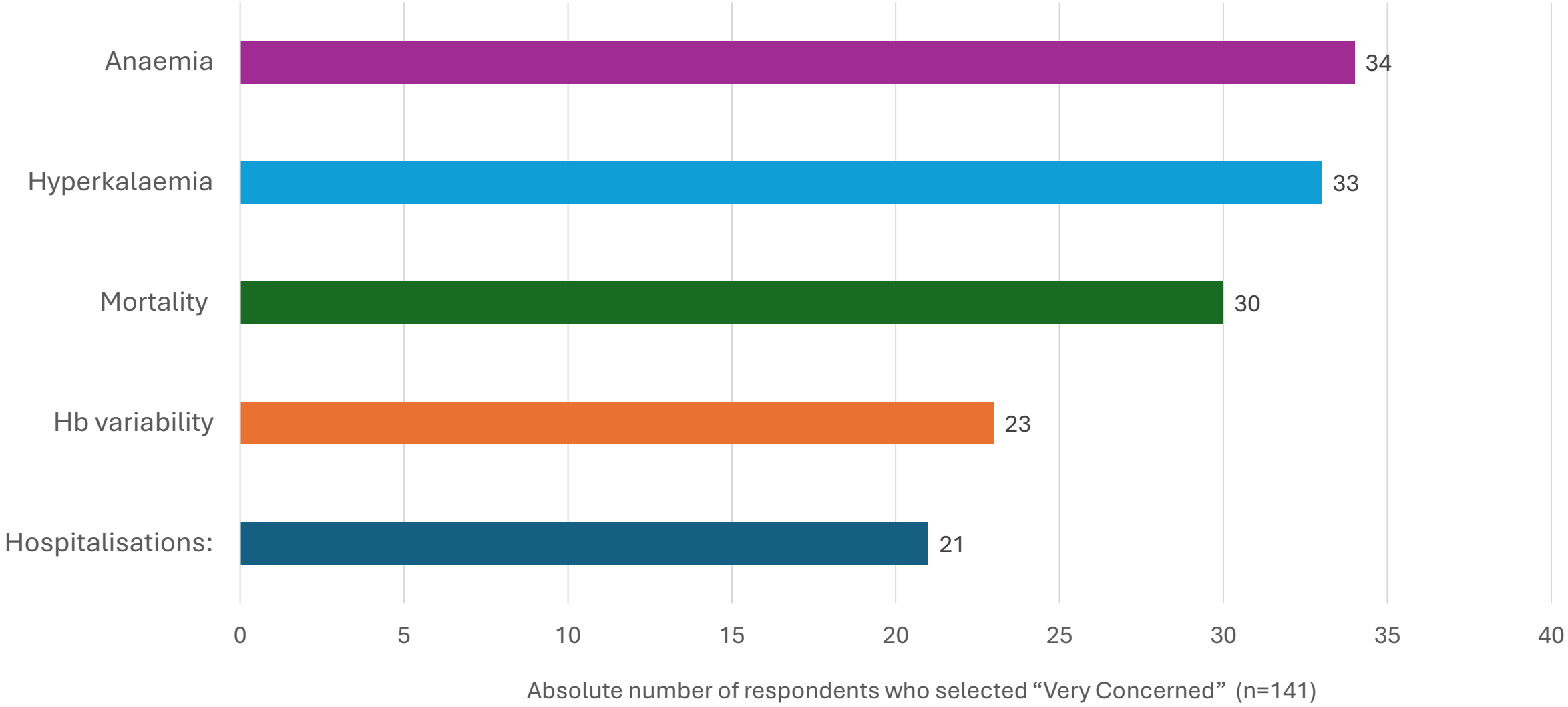
How often is FBC, EUC and Iron routinely checked?



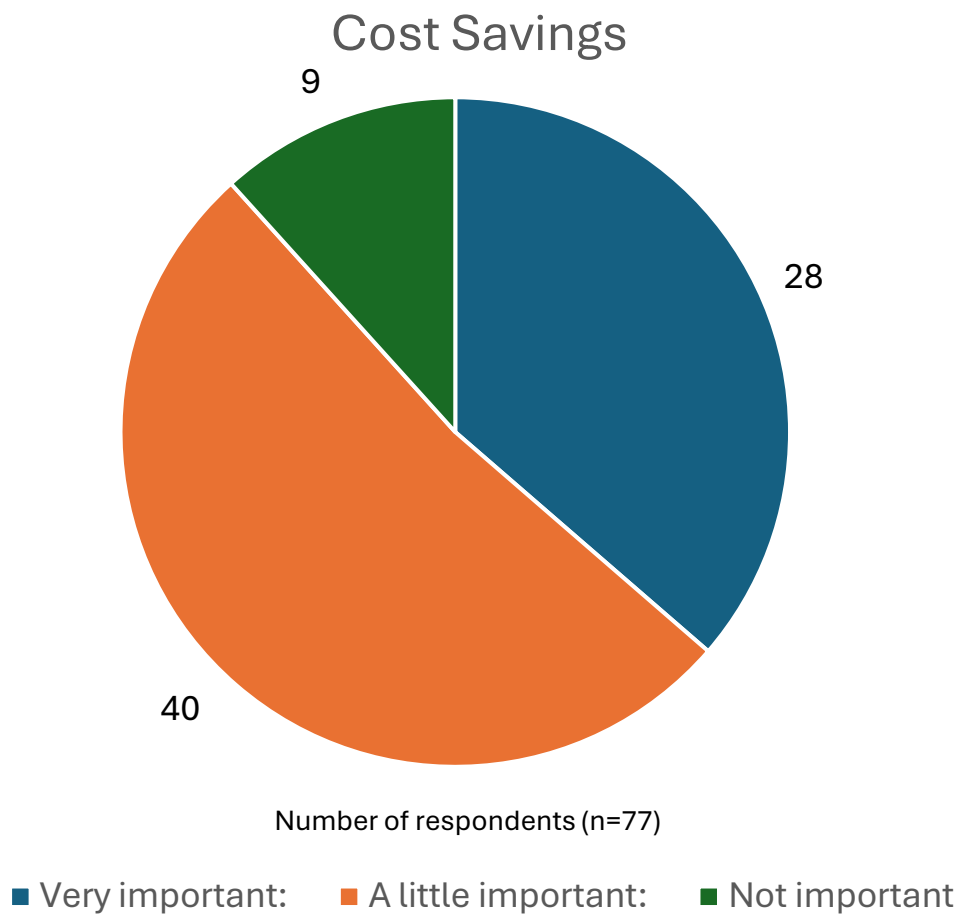


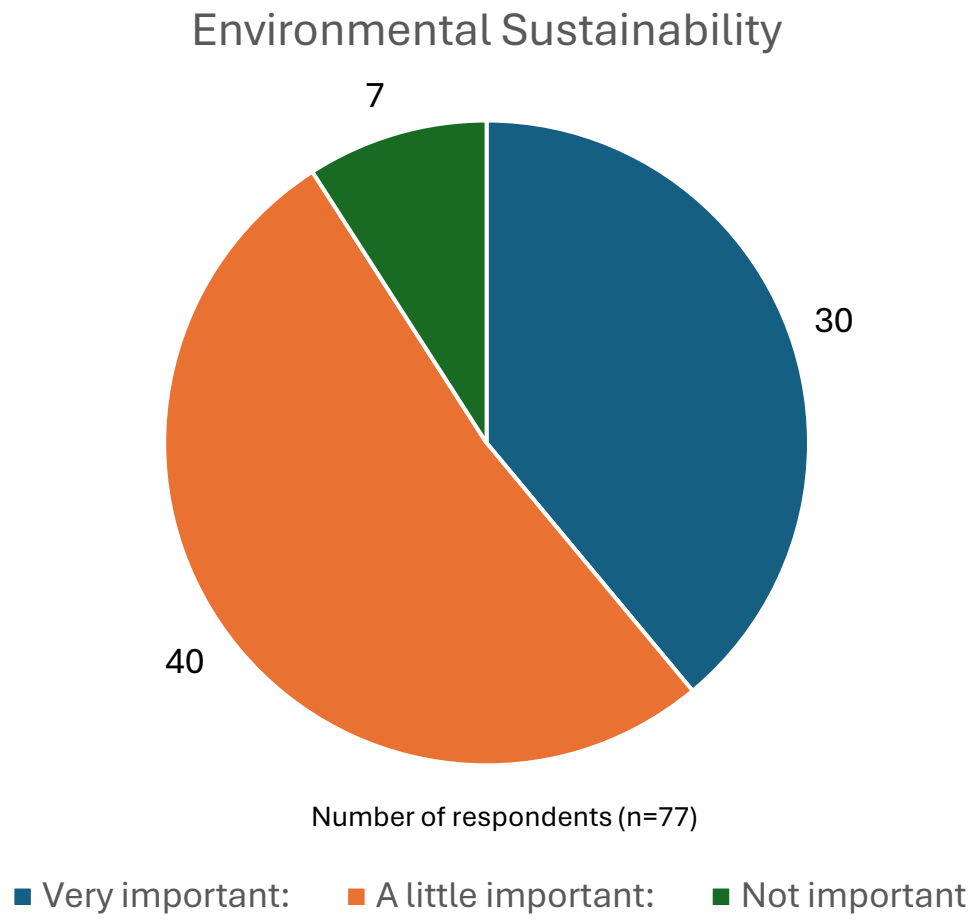


Outcomes with the highest number of "Very concerned" responses, when considering a change to less frequent than monthly blood testing

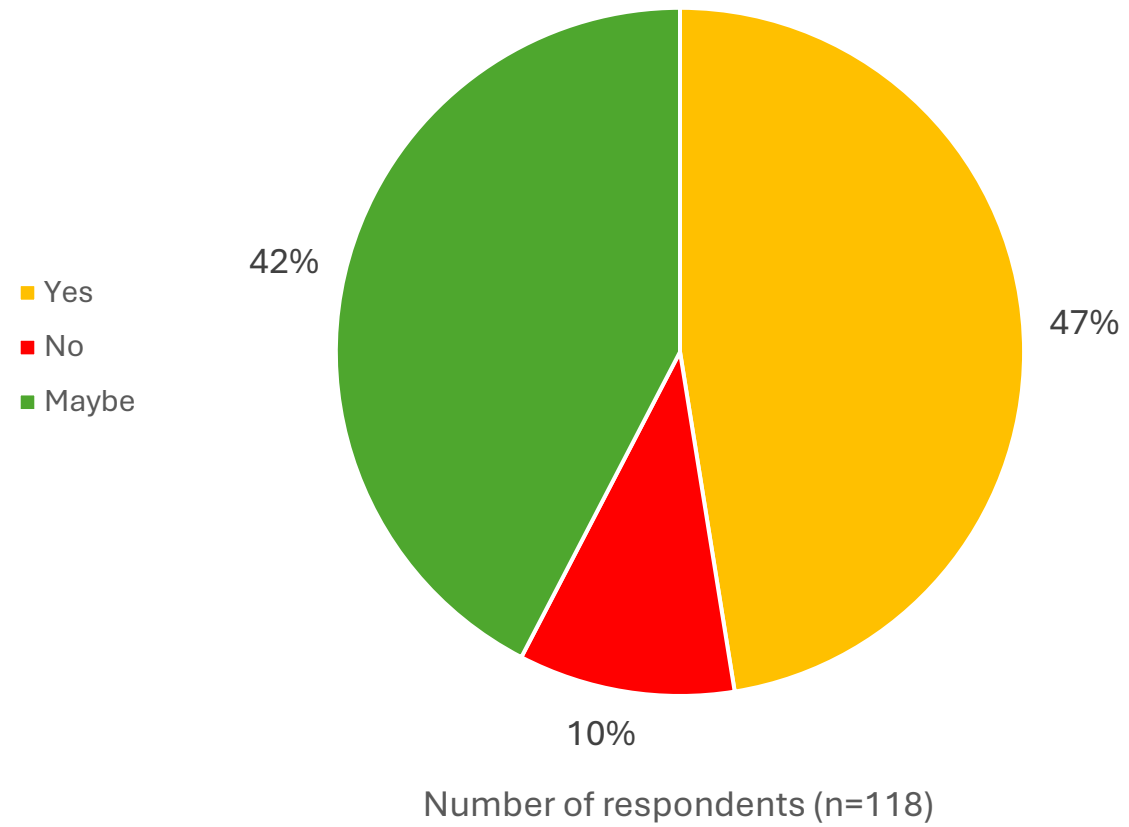


When considering the frequency of blood testing, how important are the following to your service?





Would your dialysis unit be interested in taking part in future research that explores less frequent surveillance bloodwork?



23 of the 142 survey participants did not provide a response for this question

Take Home Messages

- Substantial variation in routine blood testing practices across ANZ haemodialysis services.
- key clinical concerns associated with reduced testing frequency: aneamia, hyperkalamia, and mortality.
- These findings inform ongoing implementation studies to streamline dialysis service delivery reliant on frequent blood test monitoring.