

Following Through on Good Communication: the Impact of Language Proficiency on Care Transitions



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INTRODUCTION

In a retrospective chart review, we assessed:

- 1) how language proficiency was associated with **completion** of follow up care after hospitalization for CVD
- 2) how language proficiency was associated with **location** and **timing** of follow up

METHODS



RESULTS

Follow up **visit completion** rate did not differ by **language preference** among Hispanic patients hospitalized at ECU Health with cardiovascular disease

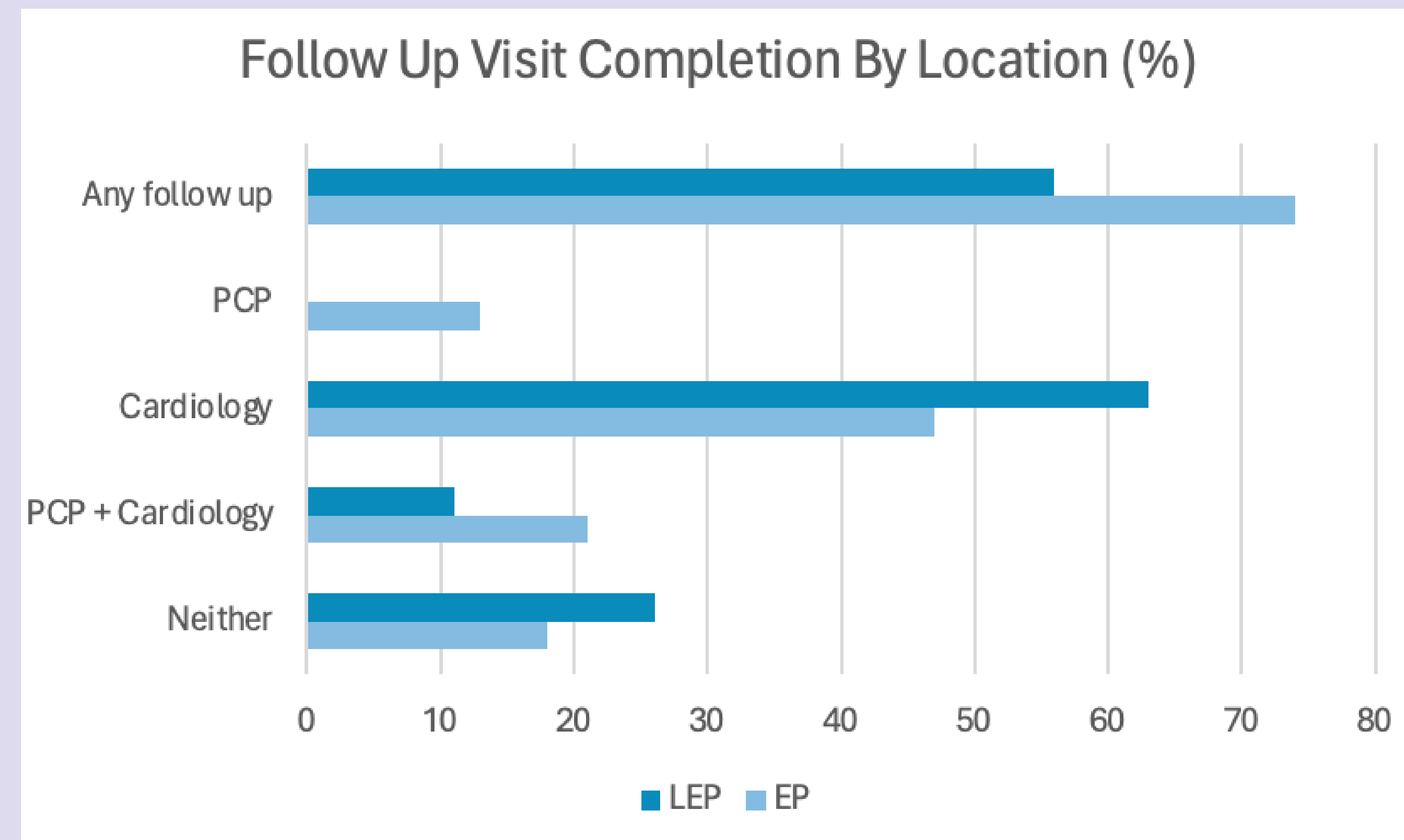


Figure 1. Follow up visit completion by location. Any follow up (p=0.128). LEP: Limited English-Proficient. EP: English-Proficient.

65 unique patients

27 LEP
Limited English-Proficient
38 EP
English-Proficient

DISCUSSION

Future research may identify what aspects of the healthcare system are helping to reduce disparities in follow up outcomes for limited English-proficient patients.

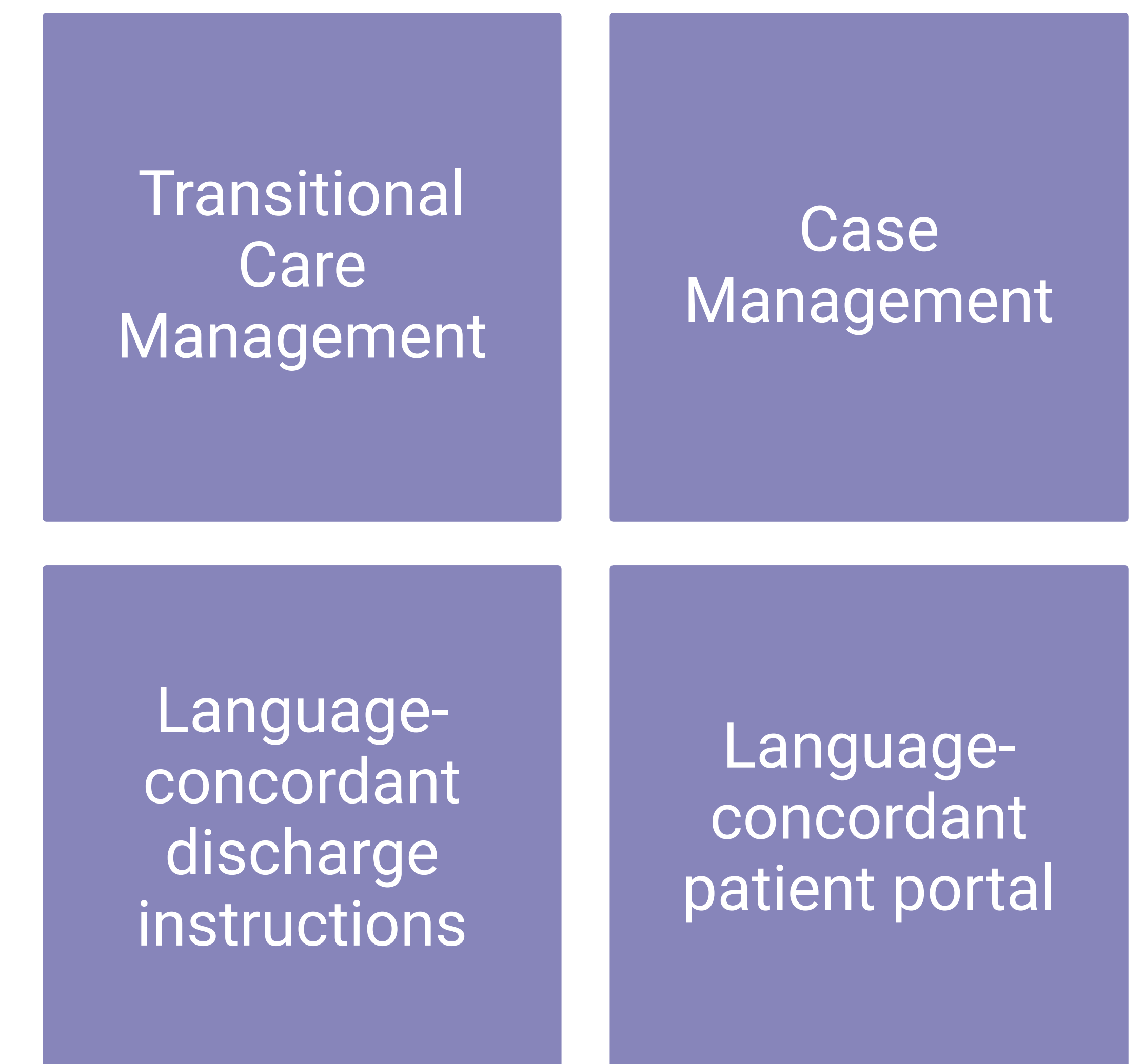


Figure 2. Potential factors contributing to follow up outcomes after hospitalization.

A closer look at PCP follow up

Hispanic patients are less likely to have a usual source of primary care, regardless of language preference.¹

Research incorporating follow up visit attendance at PCP offices outside of ECU Health, including private practices and community health centers, may better characterize the disparity in PCP follow up compared to specialty follow up.

1. Levine DM, Linder JA, Landon BE. Characteristics of Americans With Primary Care and Changes Over Time, 2002-2015. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2020;180(3):463-466. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2019.6282