

# NCAP

NATIONAL CARDIAC AUDIT PROGRAMME

NICOR

## National Heart Failure Audit (NHFA)

### Interim Report 2026

Including data to 30th September 2025





## Number of cases

All cases

## Specialist HF care

Place of care

Cardiology ward care by hospital

Specialist HF input

Specialist HF input by hospital

## Use of echocardiography

Use of Echo and ECG

Use of Echocardiography by hospital

## Prescribing of recommended drugs

HFrEF drug prescribing

Data quality in drug prescribing in HFrEF

HFrEF drug treatment by age group

ACEi/ARB/ARNI

Beta-blocker (BB)

MRA

ACEi/ARB/ARNI + BB + MRA

SGLT2i

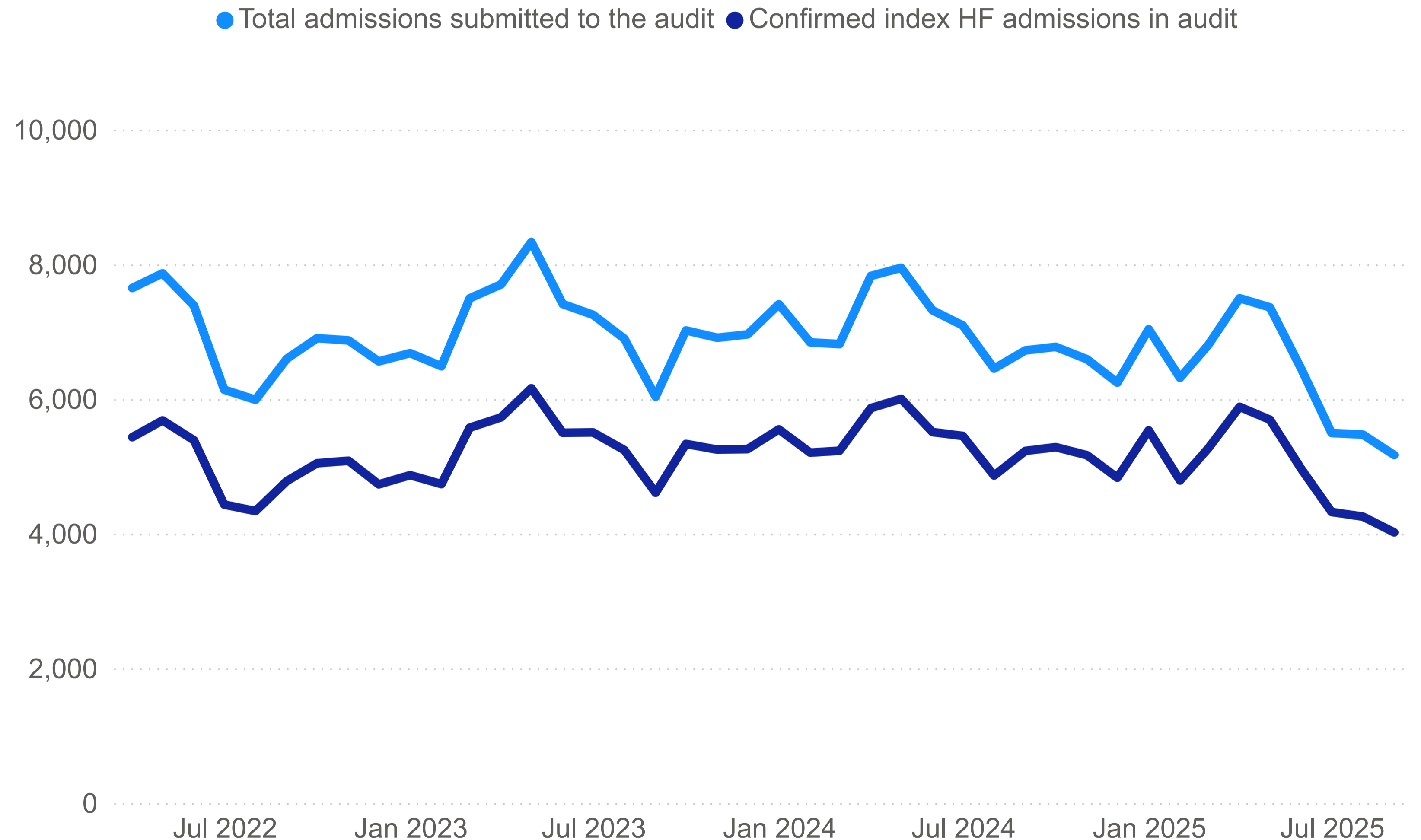
# Monthly submissions to the NHFA vary, and submissions in Q1 and Q2 2025/26 are incomplete



The index admission for a patient is either their only acute heart failure (HF) admission or the first HF admission when more than one was submitted in the audit year. The audit captures data from patients where HF is in the primary diagnostic position and so the cause of the admission. The term 'confirmed' is used when the data submitted are verified as an acute HF admission.

29,137 index admissions and 37,445 total admissions were recorded in the first half of 2025/26 with monthly variation.

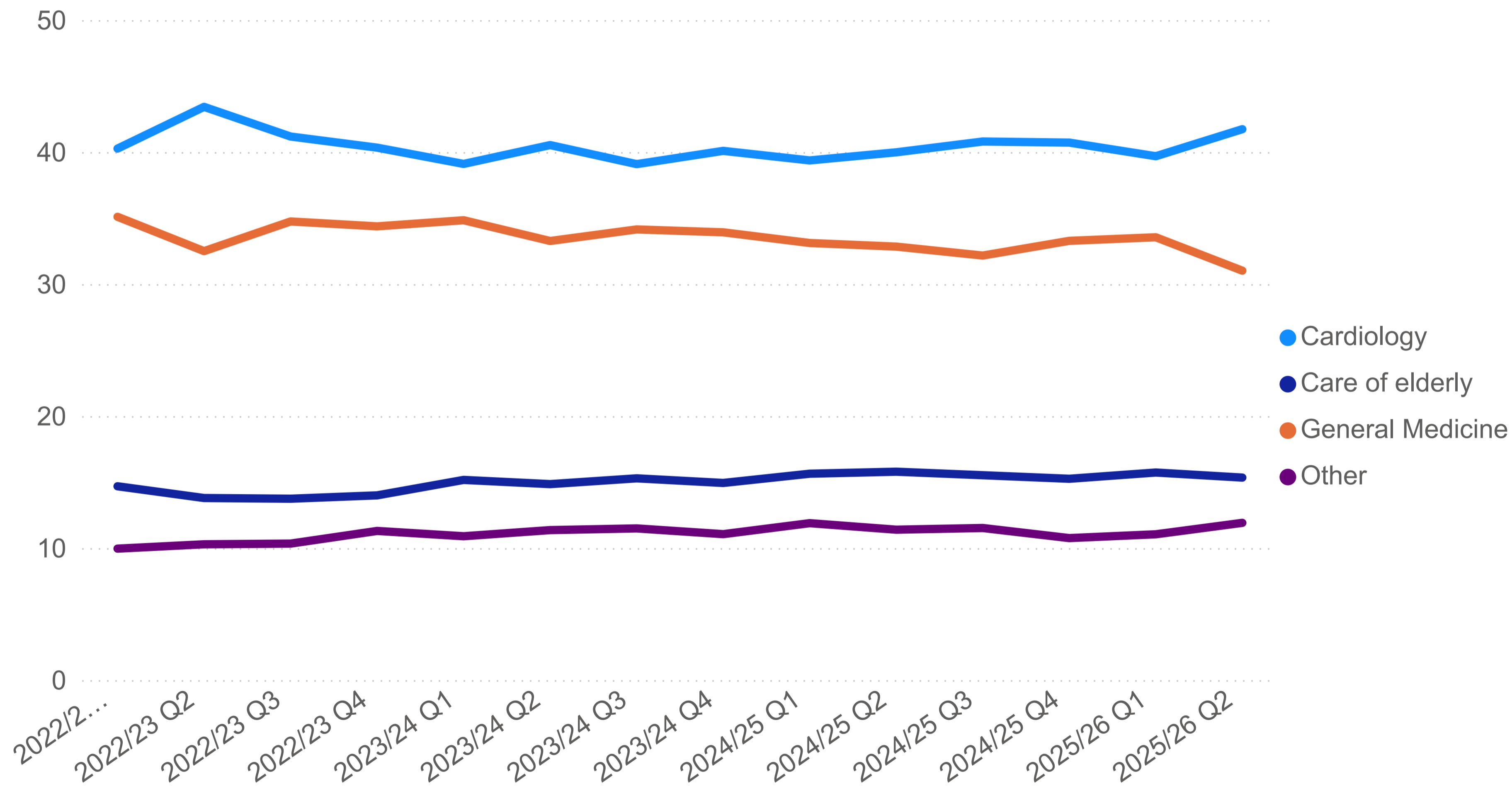
## Monthly HF cases submitted to the audit and numbers confirmed as an index HF admission (up to September 2025)



# The proportion of HF patients admitted to a cardiology ward remains at around 40%



## Percentage of HF patients receiving care in different types of ward by quarter (up to September 2025)



There has been little change in the place of care for HF patients, with an average of around 40% being cared for on a specialist cardiology ward.

Full analysis of any potential trends awaits the publication of the complete 2025/26 report.

# Relatively few hospitals met the target of having at least 60% of patients cared for on a cardiology ward



In the first half of the 2025/26 audit cycle, only 15% of hospitals achieved the target of 60% of HF patients to be admitted to a cardiology ward.

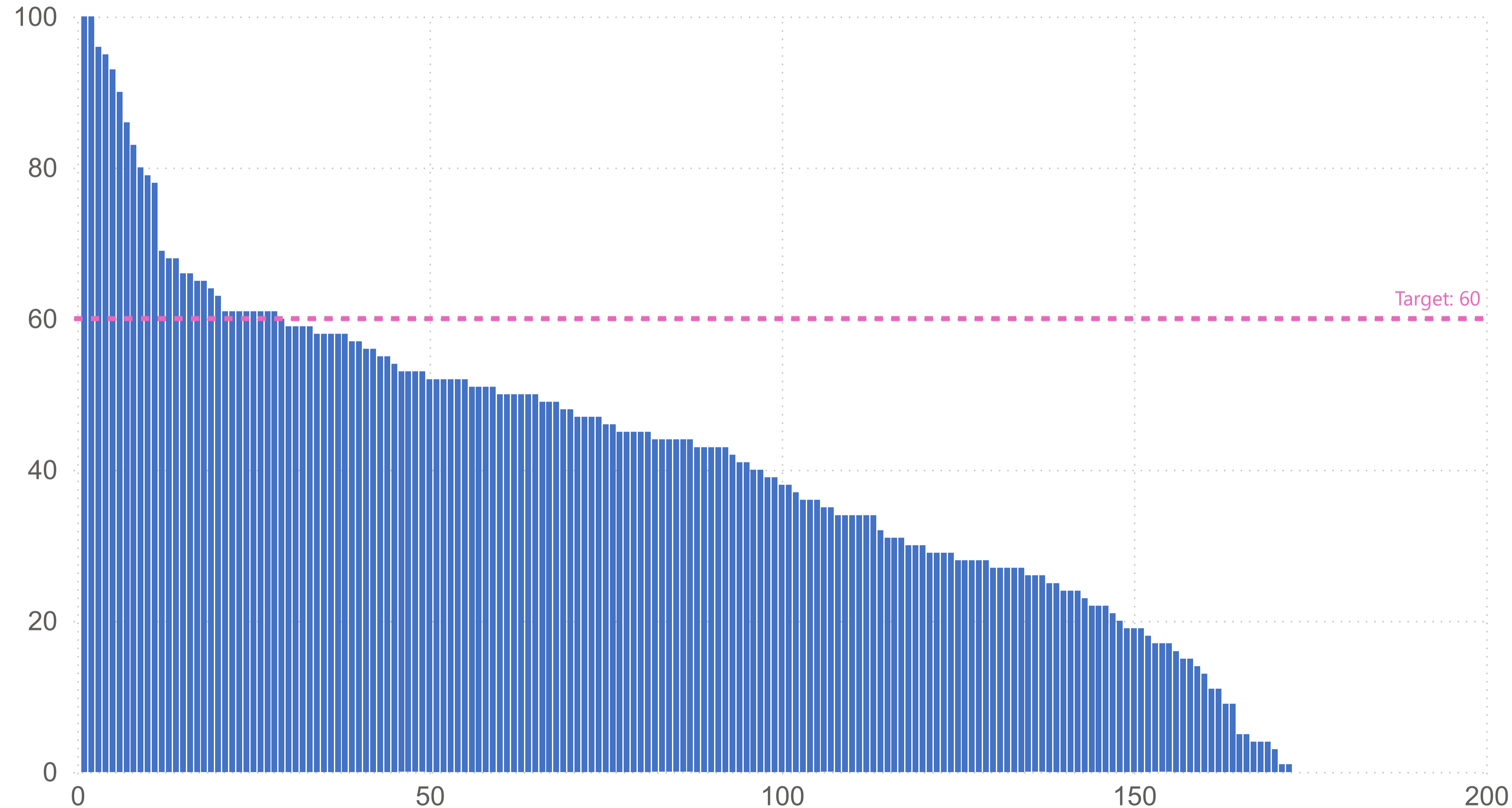
Select a cardiac network or hospital below to see its data.

*Many hospitals could not be assessed for this metric because of insufficient data, including all hospitals in Northern Ireland and all private hospitals.*

Select a cardiac network

Select a hospital

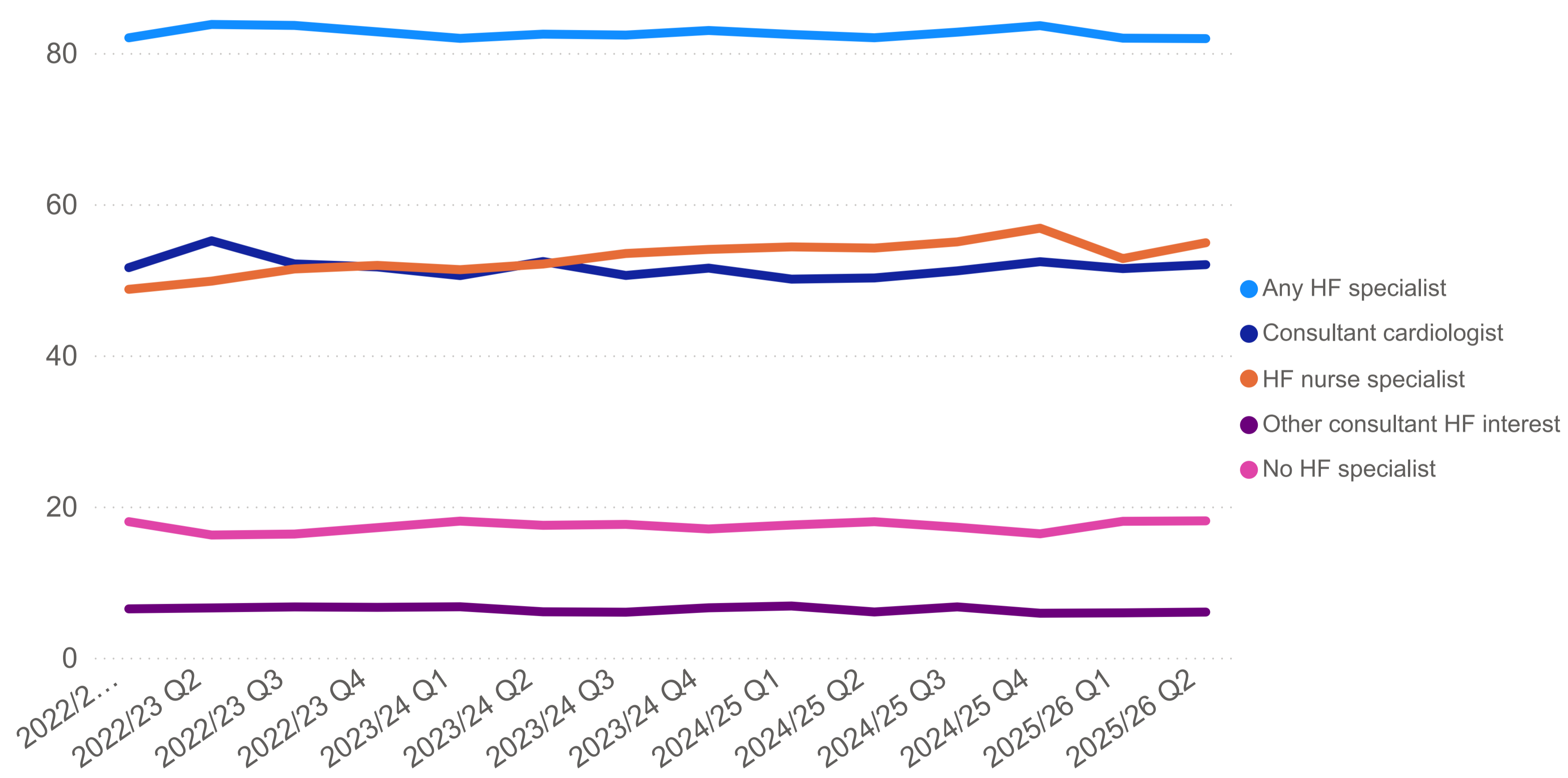
## Percentage of HF patients receiving care in a cardiology ward by hospital (April - September 2025)



# The majority of patients with heart failure are seen by a specialist HF team



### Percentage of patients seen by a specialist HF team by quarter (up to September 2025)



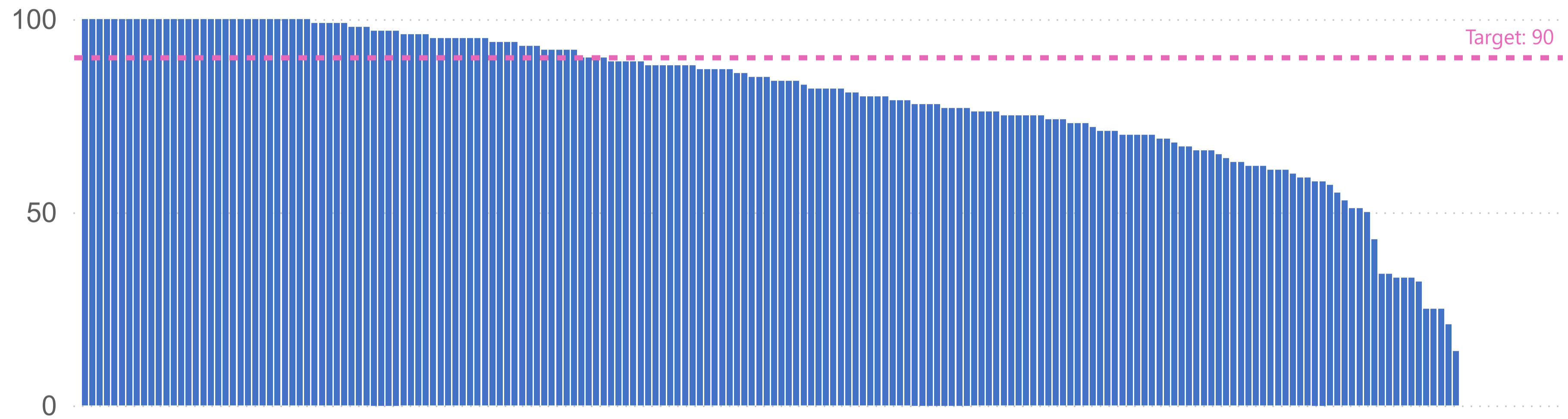
In the first half of the 2025/26 audit cycle, 82% of patients were seen by a specialist HF team.

# There is substantial variation by hospital in the proportion of patients receiving specialist input

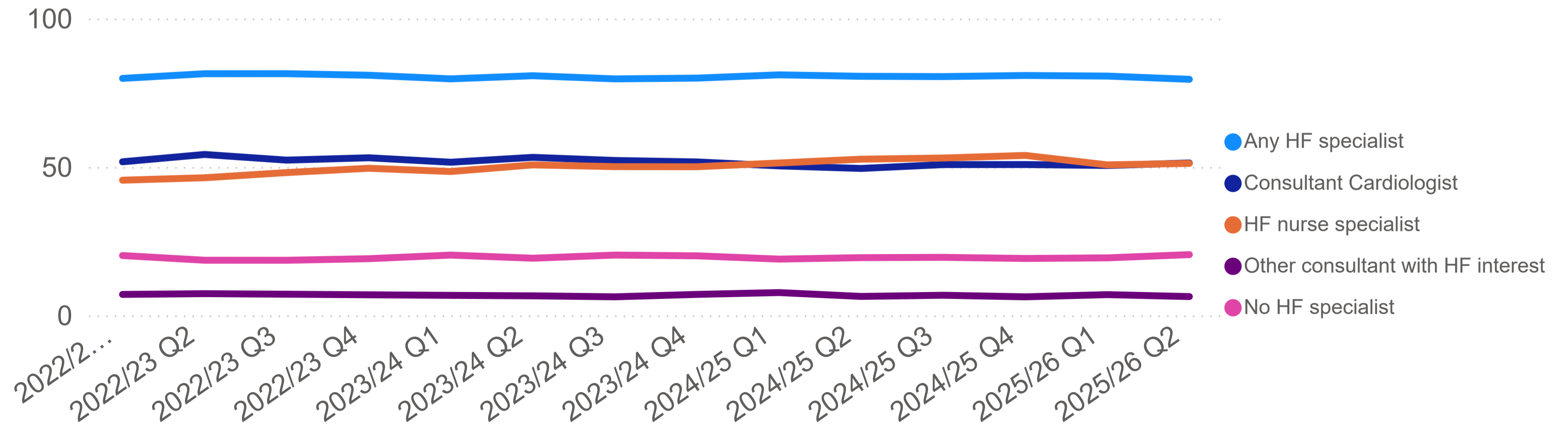


During the first half of the 2025/26 audit cycle, 36% hospitals ensured that at least 90% of HF patients were seen by a specialist HF team.

## Percentage of patients seen by a specialist HF team by hospital for April to September 2025



## Percentage of patients seen by a specialist HF team by quarter (up to September 2025)



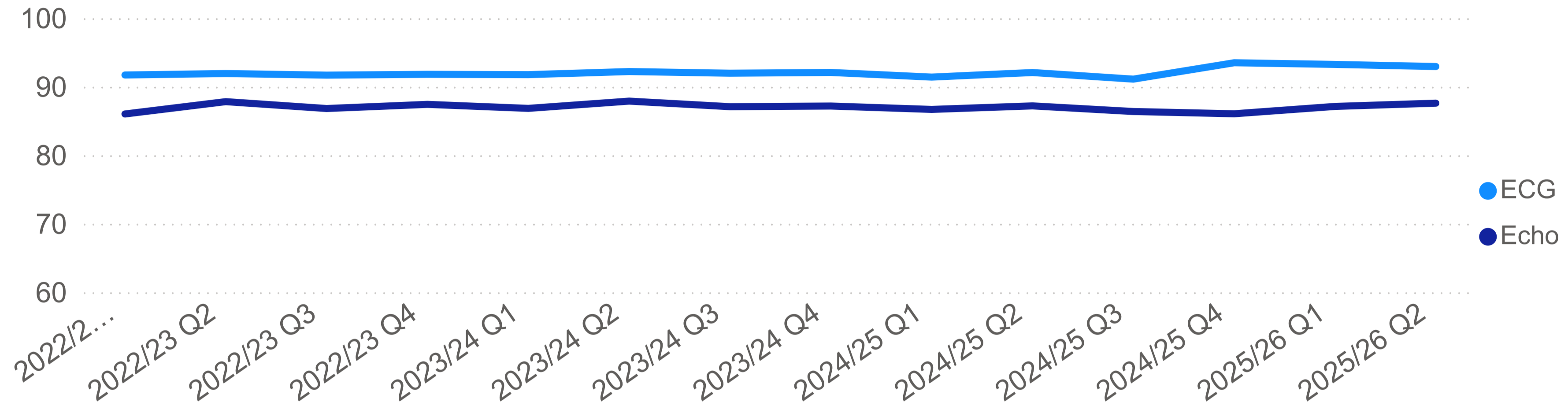
Select a Cardiac Network

Select a hospital

# The percentage of HF patients investigated with an ECG and echocardiography remains high but patients are more likely to be investigated by echocardiography if seen by a specialist team

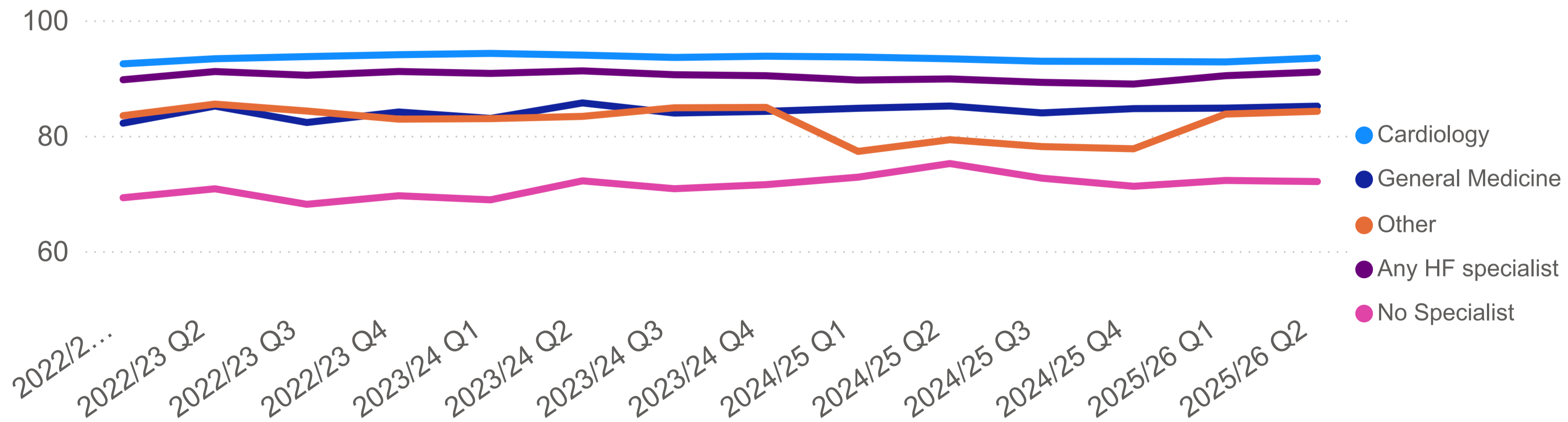


**Percentage of patients receiving an ECG and echocardiography by quarter (up to September 2025)**



Little change has been observed compared with previous years in the proportion of patients undergoing investigation with an ECG and echocardiography during the first half of the audit cycle 2025/26.

**Percentage of patients receiving echocardiography by place of care or specialist involvement by quarter (up to September 2025)**



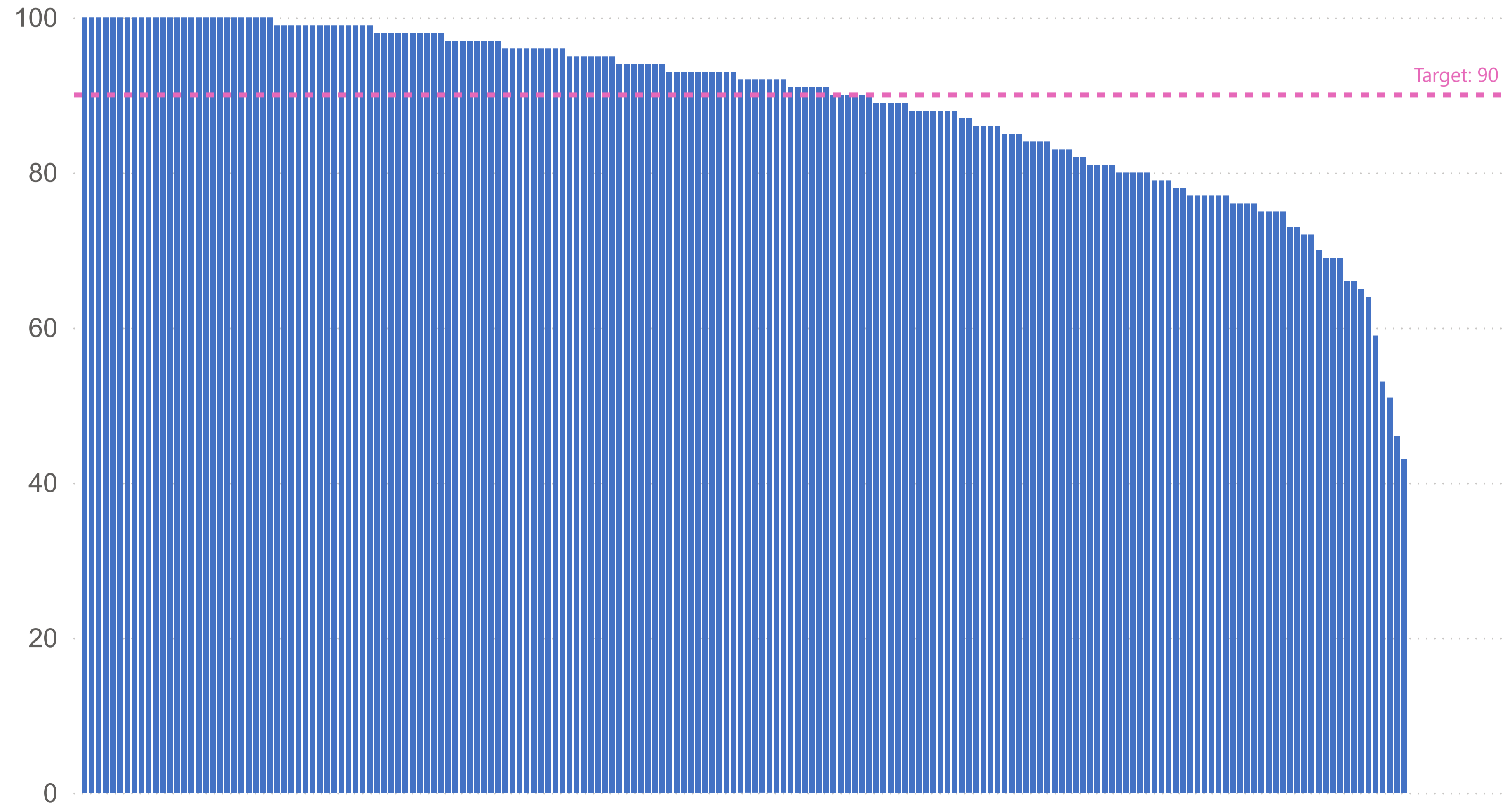
# Almost 40% of hospitals did not use echocardiography as frequently as they should



Around 59% of hospitals met the 90% target for echocardiography utilisation during the first half of the 2025/26 audit cycle.

Hover over the chart or select a cardiac network or hospital below to see specific data.

## Percentage of HF patients in England and Wales undergoing echocardiography by hospital for April to September 2025



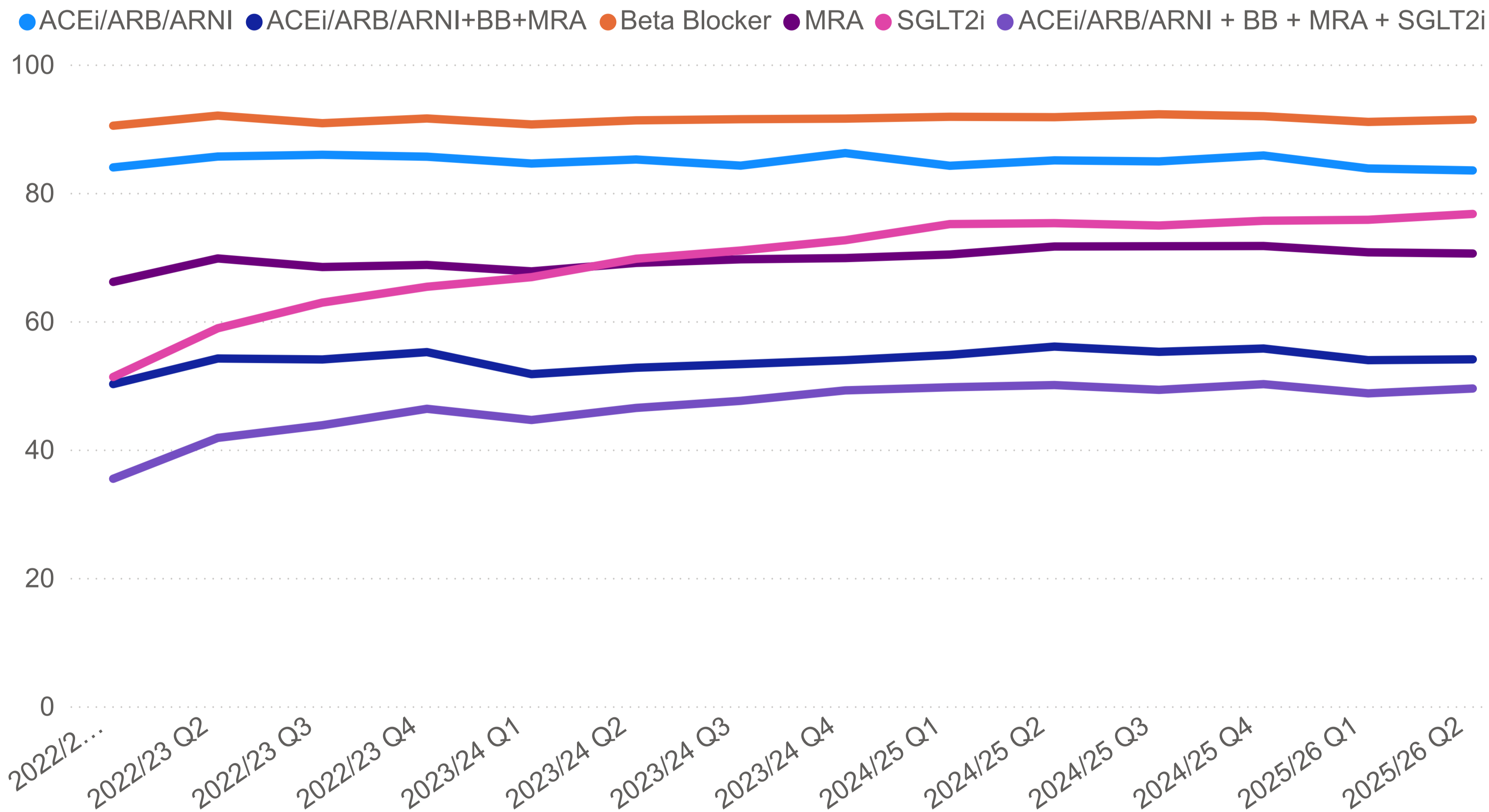
Select a Cardiac Network

Select a hospital

# Patients with HFrEF continue to receive life-saving medications



## Percentage of patients with HFrEF prescribed different drug treatments by quarter (up to September 2025)



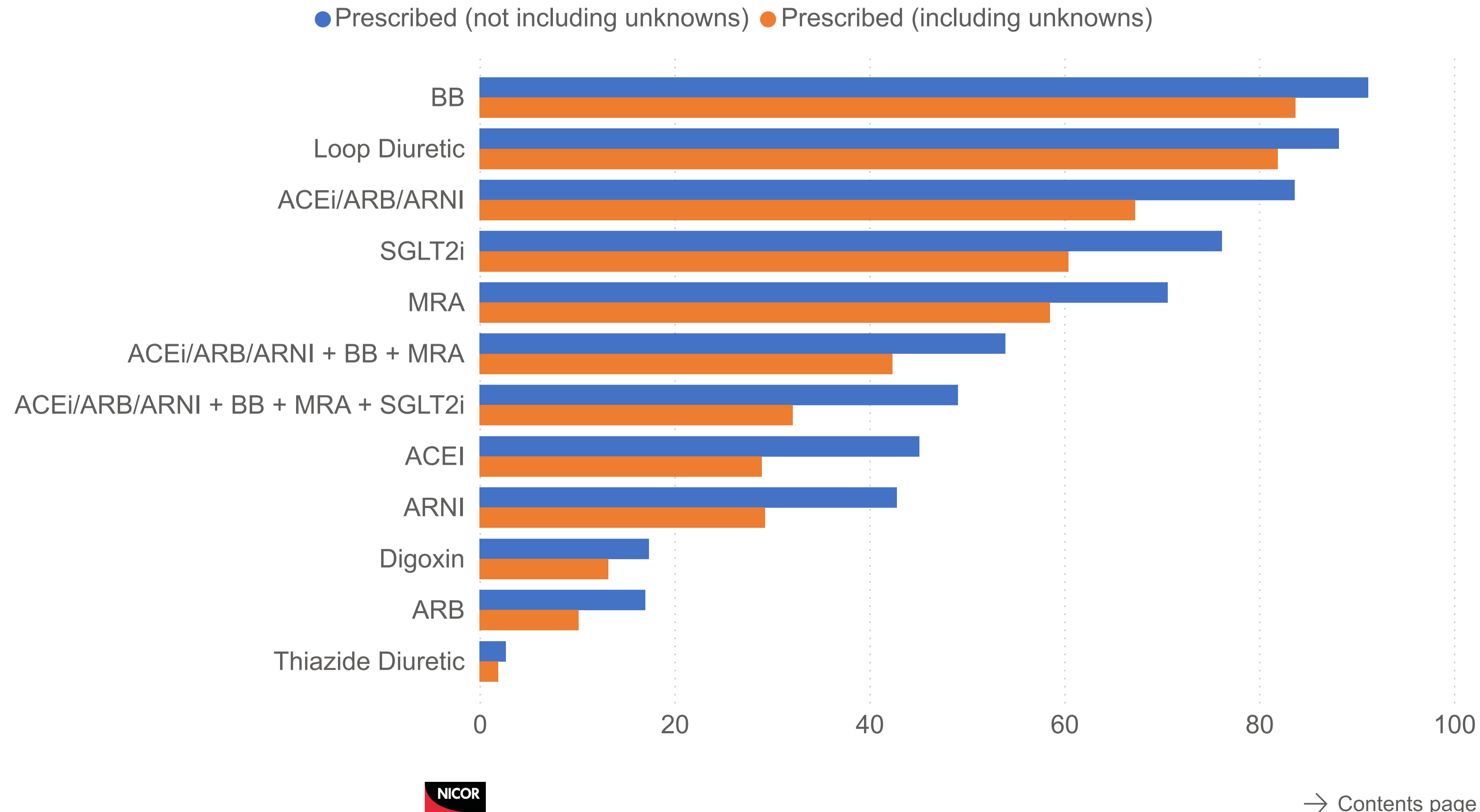
The rates of prescribing of the different disease-modifying therapies for patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) appear stable or are improving.

ACEi - Angiotensin Converting Enzyme inhibitor  
 ARB - Angiotensin Receptor Blocker  
 ARNI - Angiotensin Receptor / Neprilysin Inhibitor  
 BB - Beta Blocker  
 MRA - Mineralocorticoid (aldosterone) Receptor Antagonist  
 SGLT2i - Sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 inhibitor



There is still a gap between reported rates of prescription of disease-modifying drugs for HFrEF dependent on whether the denominator includes those marked 'unknown' or not. Many hospitals need to improve their data quality.

## Percentage of patients with HFrEF prescribed different recommended disease-modifying drugs with and without 'unknowns' in denominator (April - September 2025)



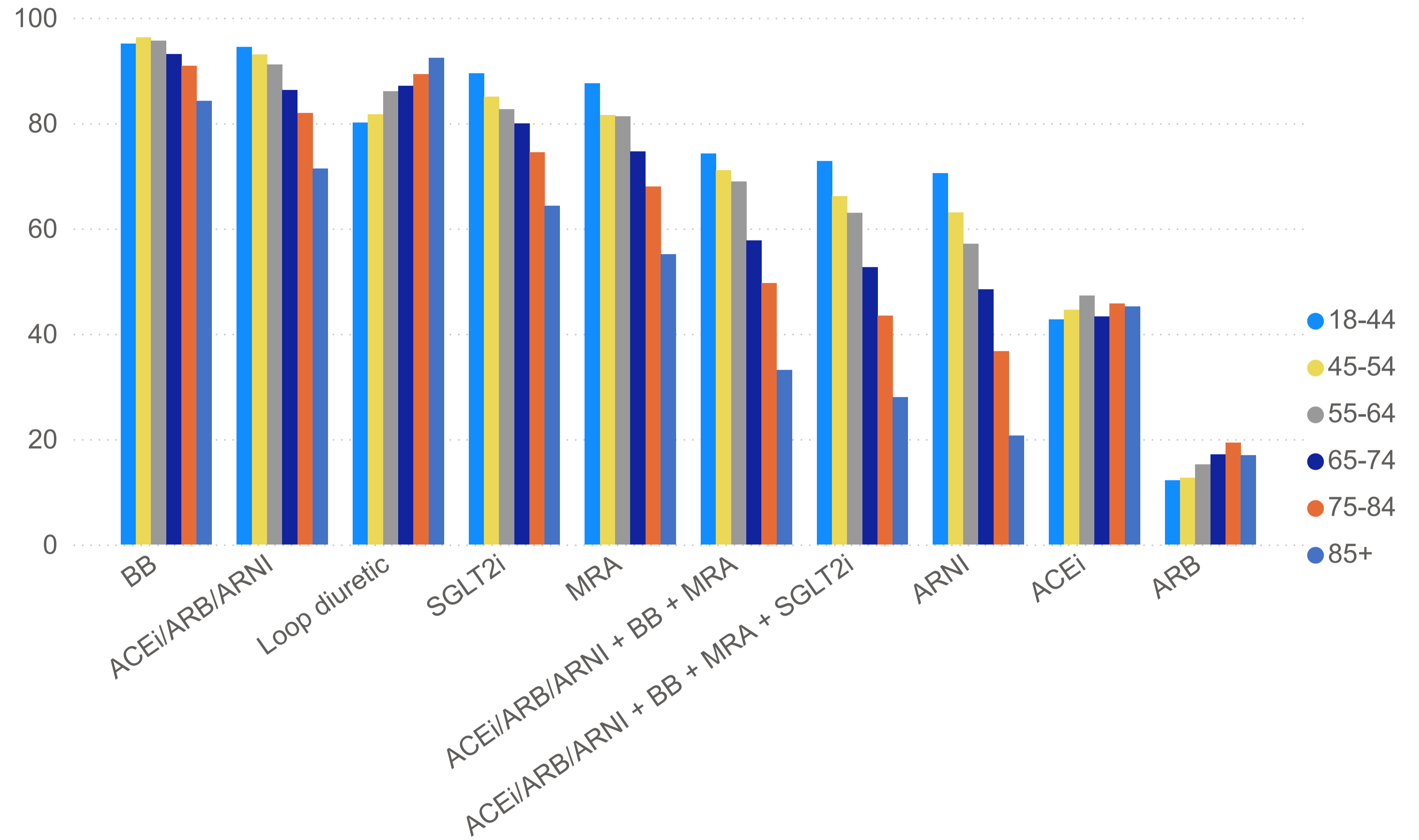
ACEi - Angiotensin Converting Enzyme inhibitor  
 ARB - Angiotensin Receptor Blocker  
 ARNI - Angiotensin Receptor / Nephilysin Inhibitor  
 BB - Beta Blocker  
 MRA - Mineralocorticoid (aldosterone) Receptor Antagonist  
 SGLT2i - Sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 inhibitor

# Disease-modifying drug treatments for HFrEF were prescribed less often in older patients



Older patients with HFrEF are less likely to be prescribed disease-modifying treatments. This is not seen for diuretic therapy.

Percentage of patients receiving different drug treatments by age group in years for April to September 2025



ACEi - Angiotensin Converting Enzyme inhibitor  
 ARB - Angiotensin Receptor Blocker  
 ARNI - Angiotensin Receptor / Nephilysin Inhibitor  
 BB - Beta Blocker  
 MRA - Mineralocorticoid (aldosterone) Receptor Antagonist  
 SGLT2i - Sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 inhibitor

# In many hospitals, the prescribing rates of ACEi/ARB/ARNI in patients with HFrEF were too low



Over the first half of the audit cycle for 2025/26, only 45% of hospitals achieved the target of at least 90% of HFrEF patients receiving one of the ACEi/ARB/ARNI drugs at discharge.

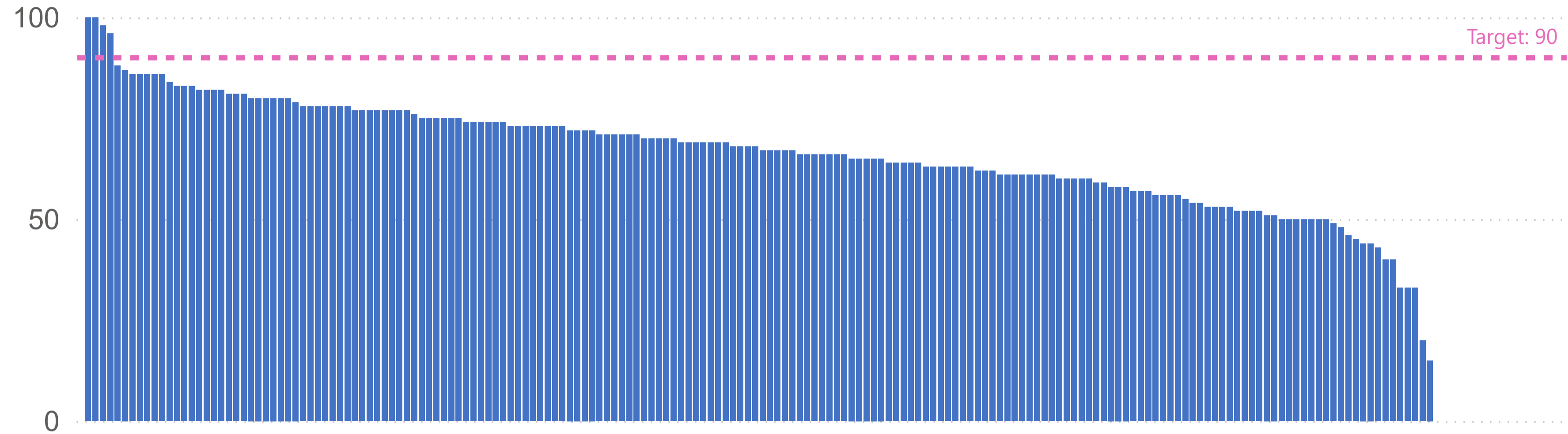
Select a Cardiac Network or hospital below or hover over the graphs to see specific data.

ACEi - Angiotensin Converting Enzyme inhibitor  
ARB - Angiotensin Receptor Blocker  
ARNI - Angiotensin Receptor / Neprilysin Inhibitor

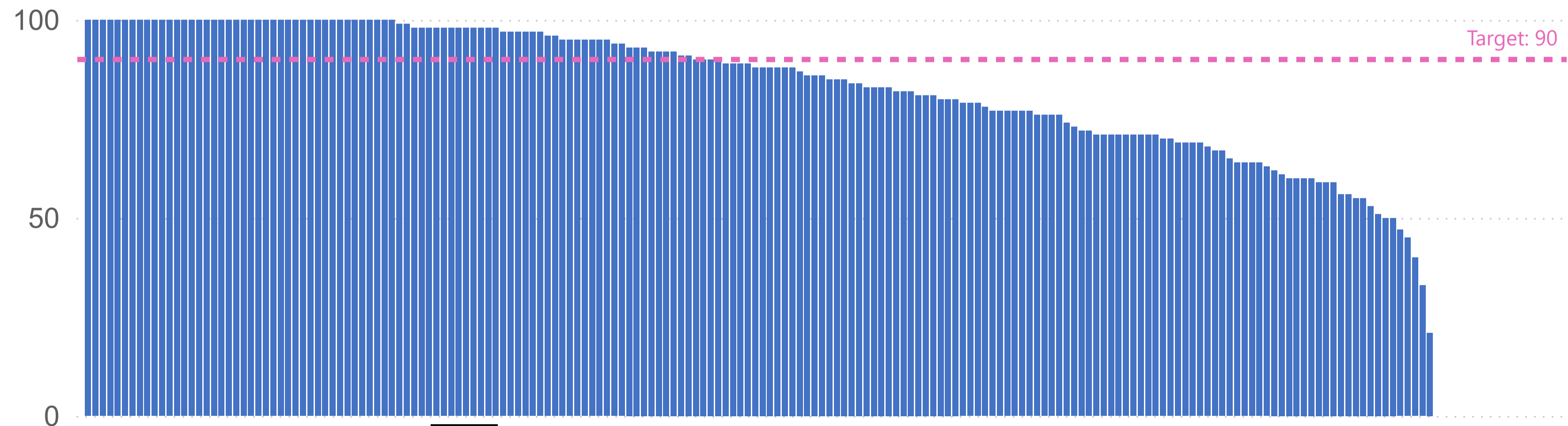
Select a Cardiac Network

Select a hospital

### Percentage of patients with HFrEF receiving an ACEi/ARB/ARNI (including unknowns) by hospital (April - September 2025)



### Percentage of patients with HFrEF receiving an ACEi/ARB/ARNI (excluding unknowns) by hospital (April - September 2025)

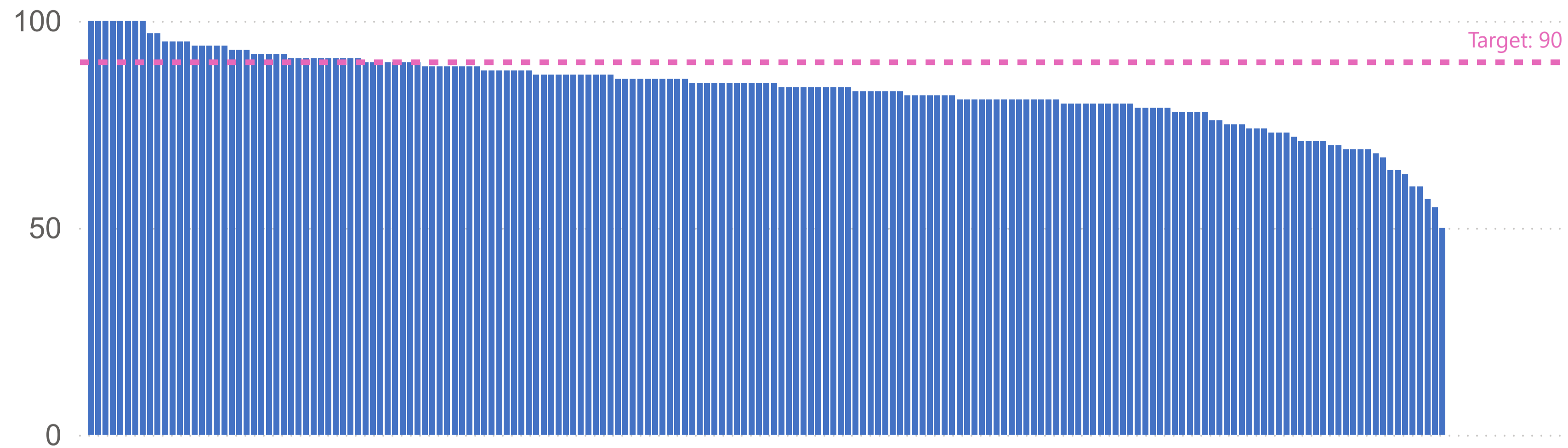


# Beta blocker prescribing in people with HFrEF remained high, but there is still scope for improvement

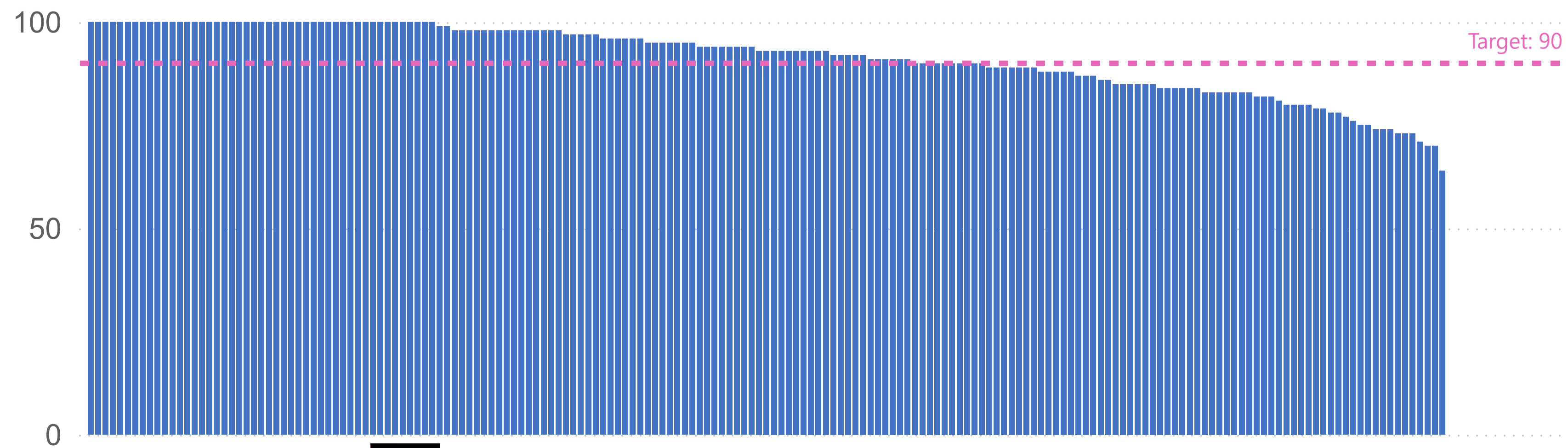


A total of 62% of hospitals met the target of ensuring that at least 90% of HFrEF patients were prescribed a beta-blocker during the first half of the 2025/26 audit cycle. However this does drop to 24% when "unknowns" are included in the denominator. There needs to be an improvement in data quality.

### Percentage of patients with HFrEF receiving a Beta Blocker (including unknowns) by hospital (April - September 2025)



### Percentage of patients with HFrEF receiving a Beta Blocker (excluding unknowns) by hospital (April - September 2025)



Select a Cardiac Network

Select a hospital

# Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist (MRA) prescribing in HFrEF remained unacceptably low compared with the audit target of 90%



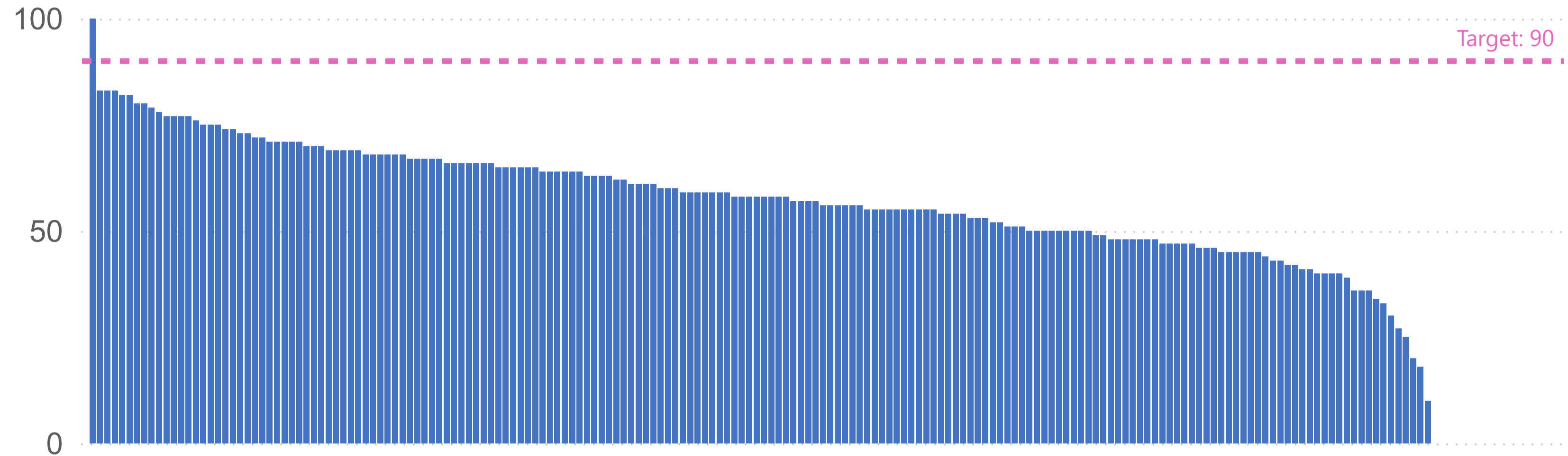
Only 26% of hospitals met the target of 90% of HFrEF patients to be prescribed an MRA during the first half of the audit cycle 2025/26. This drops to less than 1 percent when "unknowns" are included in the denominator. Much work needs to be done to improve the MRA prescribing and the accuracy of data submissions.

MRA - Mineralocorticoid (aldosterone) Receptor Antagonist

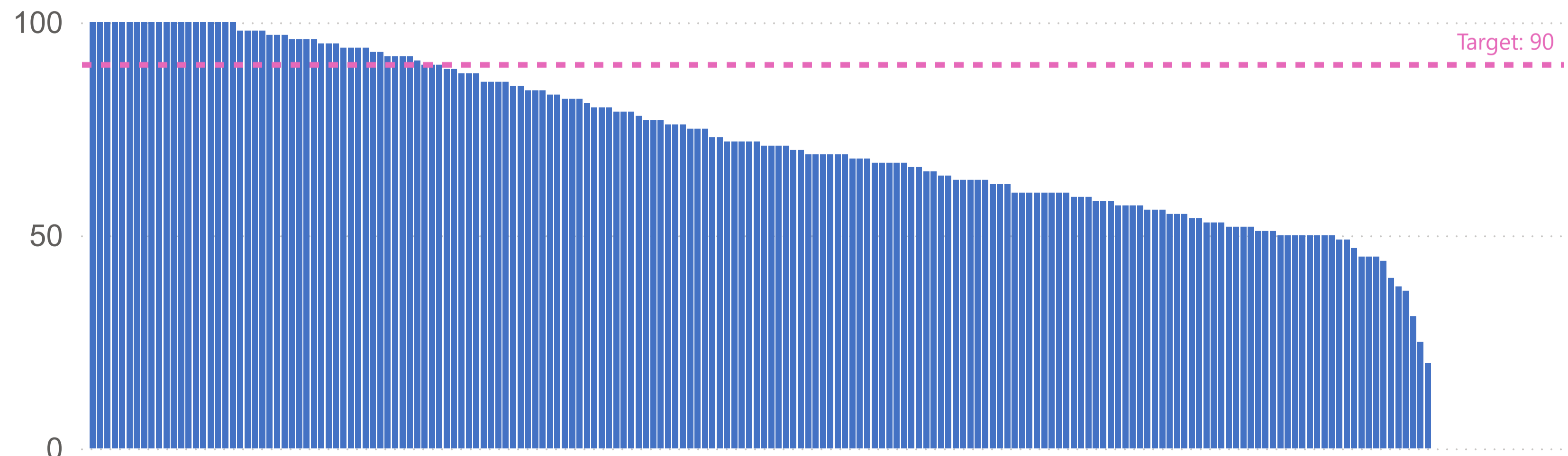
Select a Cardiac Network

Select a hospital

### Percentage of patients with HFrEF receiving an MRA (including unknowns) by hospital (April - September 2025)



### Percentage of patients with HFrEF receiving an MRA (excluding unknowns) by hospital (April - September 2025)



# The proportion of patients receiving an ACEi/ARB/ARNI + MRA + Beta Blocker on discharge was disappointingly low



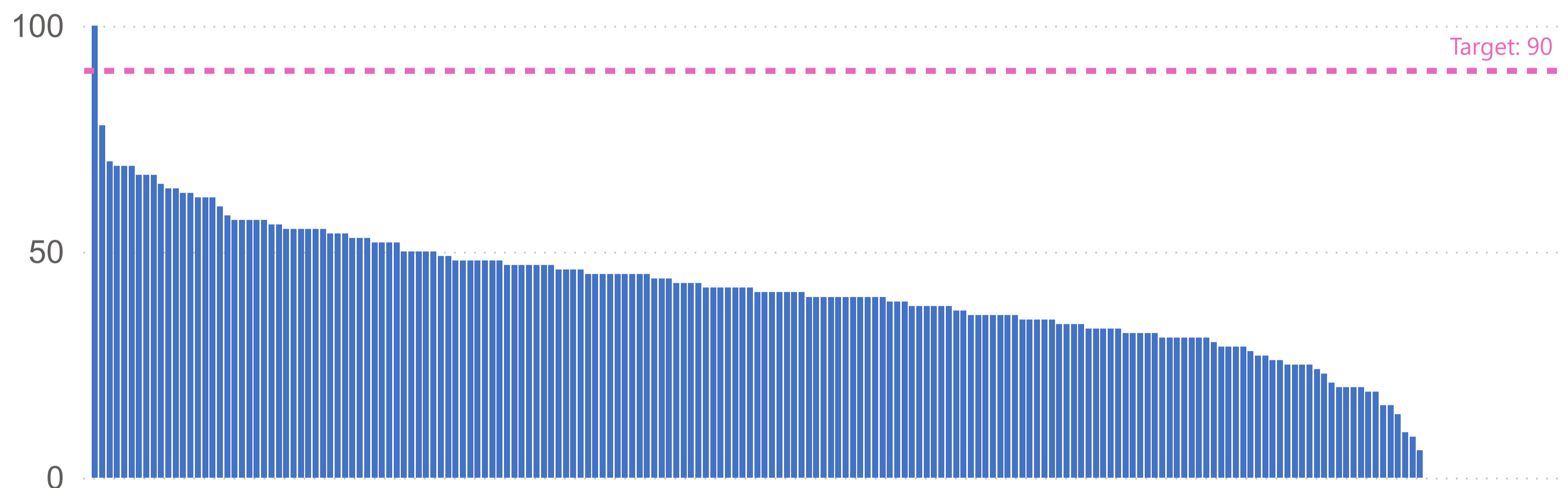
The analysis of data from those leaving hospital in the first half of 2025/26 on the traditional three classes of disease-modifying drugs is more disappointing. Only 5% of hospitals achieved the target of 90% of patients to be prescribed all three groups of drugs. This falls to less than 1% when "unknowns" are included in the denominator.

ACEi - Angiotensin Converting Enzyme inhibitor  
ARB - Angiotensin Receptor Blocker  
ARNI - Angiotensin Receptor / Neprilysin Inhibitor  
BB - Beta Blocker  
MRA - Mineralocorticoid (aldosterone) Receptor Antagonist

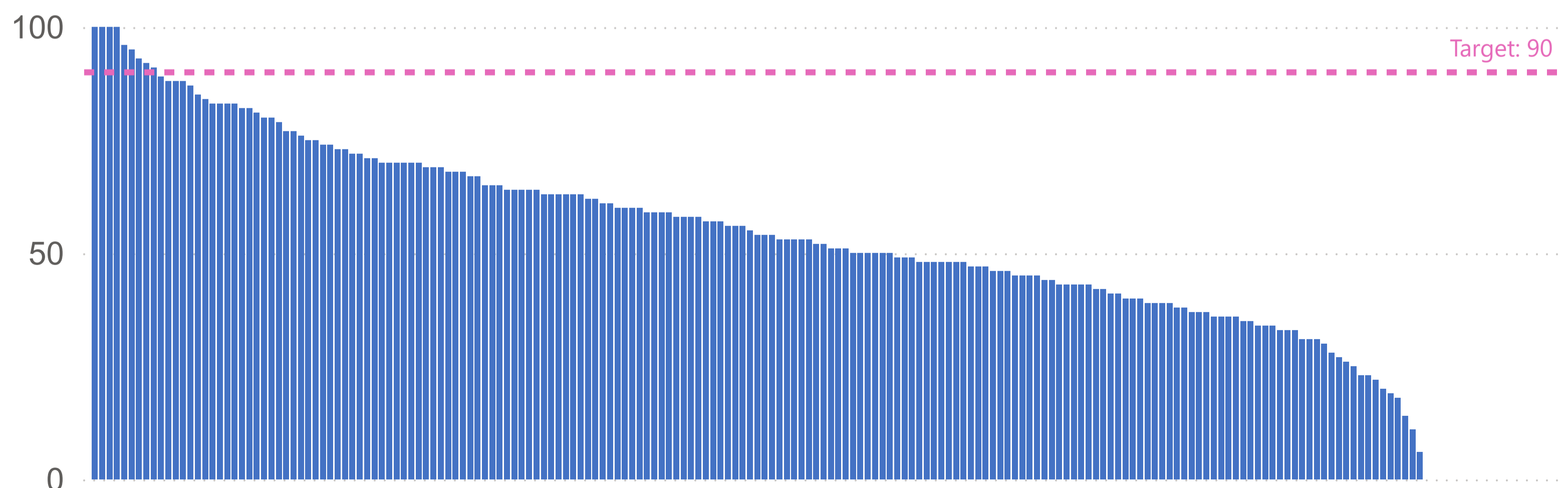
Select a Cardiac Network

Select a hospital

### Percentage of patients with HFrEF receiving an ACEi/ARB/ARNI + BB + MRA (including unknowns) by hospital (April - September 2025)



### Percentage of patients with HFrEF receiving an ACEi/ARB/ARNI + BB + MRA (excluding unknowns) by hospital (April - September 2025)



# The prescribing of the relatively new sodium glucose co-transporter 2 inhibitor (SGLT2i) drugs in patients with HFrEF is being adopted rapidly



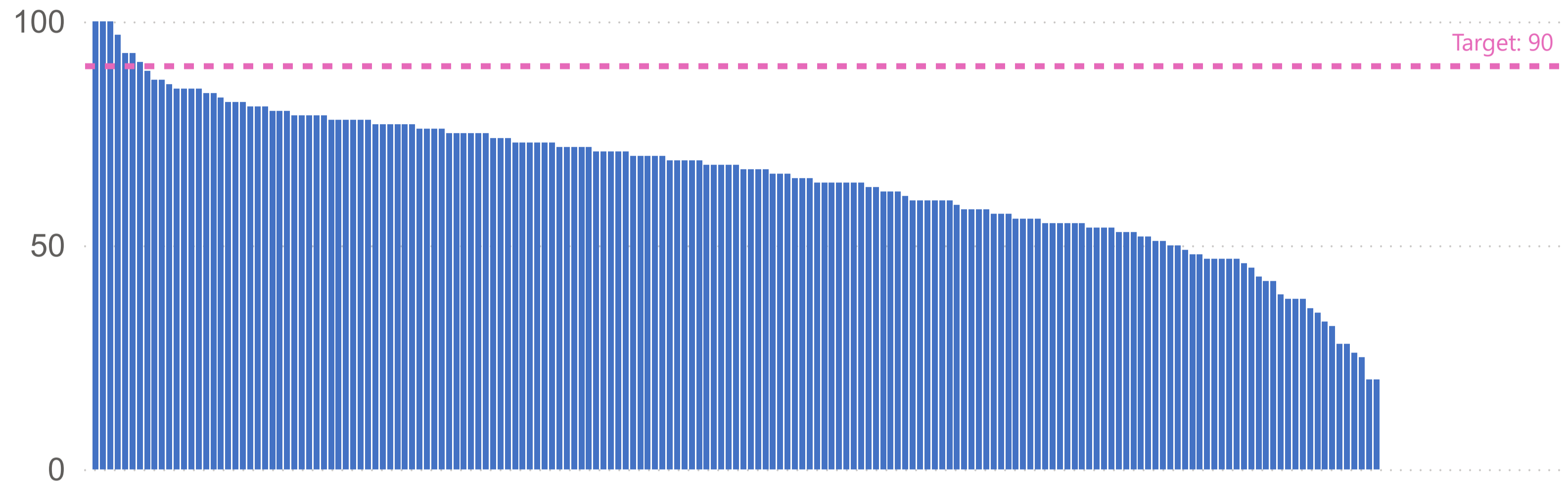
During the first half of 2025/26, 32% of hospitals achieved the bar of 90% of patients leaving hospitals on the fourth pillar of therapy for HFrEF, SGLT2 inhibitors. There is a marked fall off when 'unknowns' are included in the denominator.

SGLT2i - Sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 inhibitor

Select a Cardiac Network

Select a hospital

### Percentage of patients with HFrEF receiving an SGLT2i (including unknowns) by hospital for April to September 2025



### Percentage of patients with HFrEF receiving an SGLT2i (excluding unknowns) by hospital for April to September 2025

