GENERAL INFO

The purpose of the Specialty Knowledge Gaps report is to provide information regarding areas of relative strength and weakness based on physician performance on the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Longitudinal Knowledge Assessment (LKA®). Each of the charts below shows average performance (the average percentage of questions answered correctly) in the top-level blueprint areas, both overall as well as in relation to various demographic categorizations. It is important to note that these data are based on percent correct scores and not the equated scores provided in the score reports. Because percent correct scores are reported here, differences in performance can be attributed either to the differences in the difficulties of the tests and/or differences in the ability levels of the different candidate groups. Interpretation of this data should be made with care.
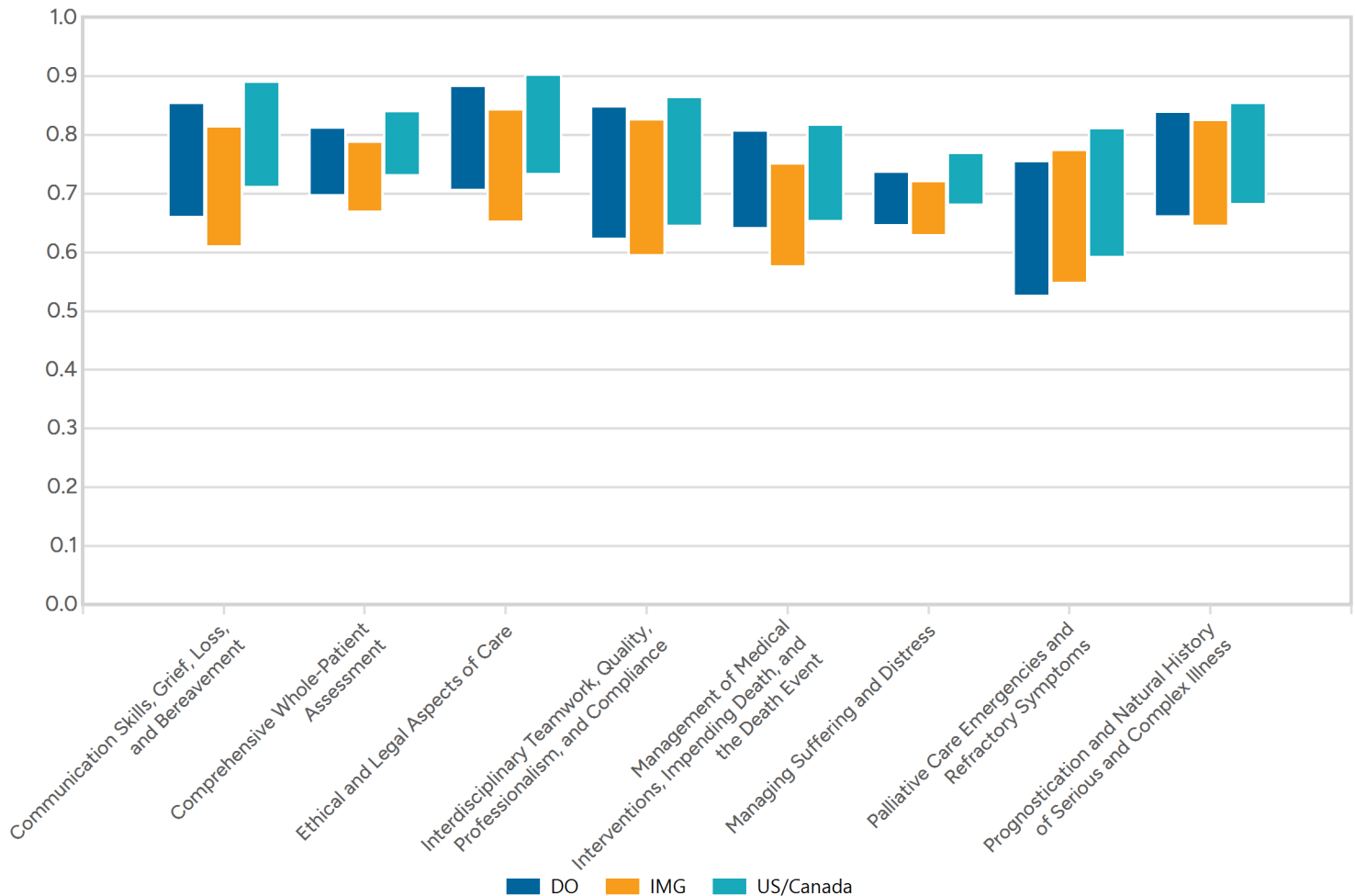
OVERALL

The chart below shows overall physician performance on each of the top-level blueprint categories on the LKA. Blueprint areas for which the bar is higher imply higher performance in those areas. Blueprint areas for which the bar is lower imply lower performance in those areas. Please consult the "General Info" section or FAQs for additional information on how you may interpret this chart.
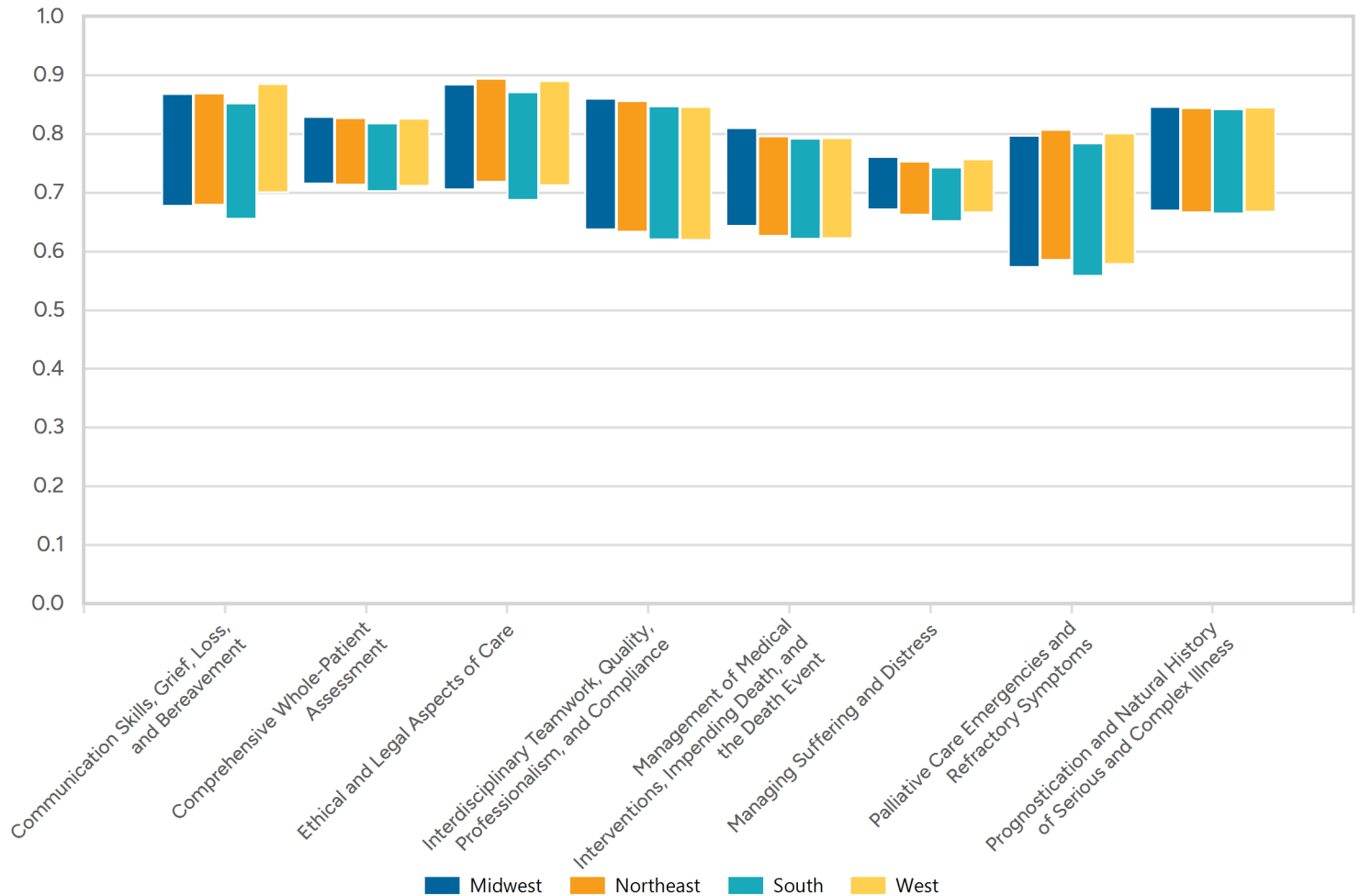

■ Average Across Years

MEDICAL SCHOOL

The chart below shows physician performance on each of the top-level blueprint categories on the LKA by medical school type (U.S./Canadian Medical School Graduate, International Medical School Graduate, Osteopathic Medical School Graduate). Demographic and content areas for which the bar is higher imply higher performance in those areas. Blueprint areas for which the bar is lower imply lower performance in those areas. Please consult the "General Info" section or FAQs for additional information on how you may interpret this chart.
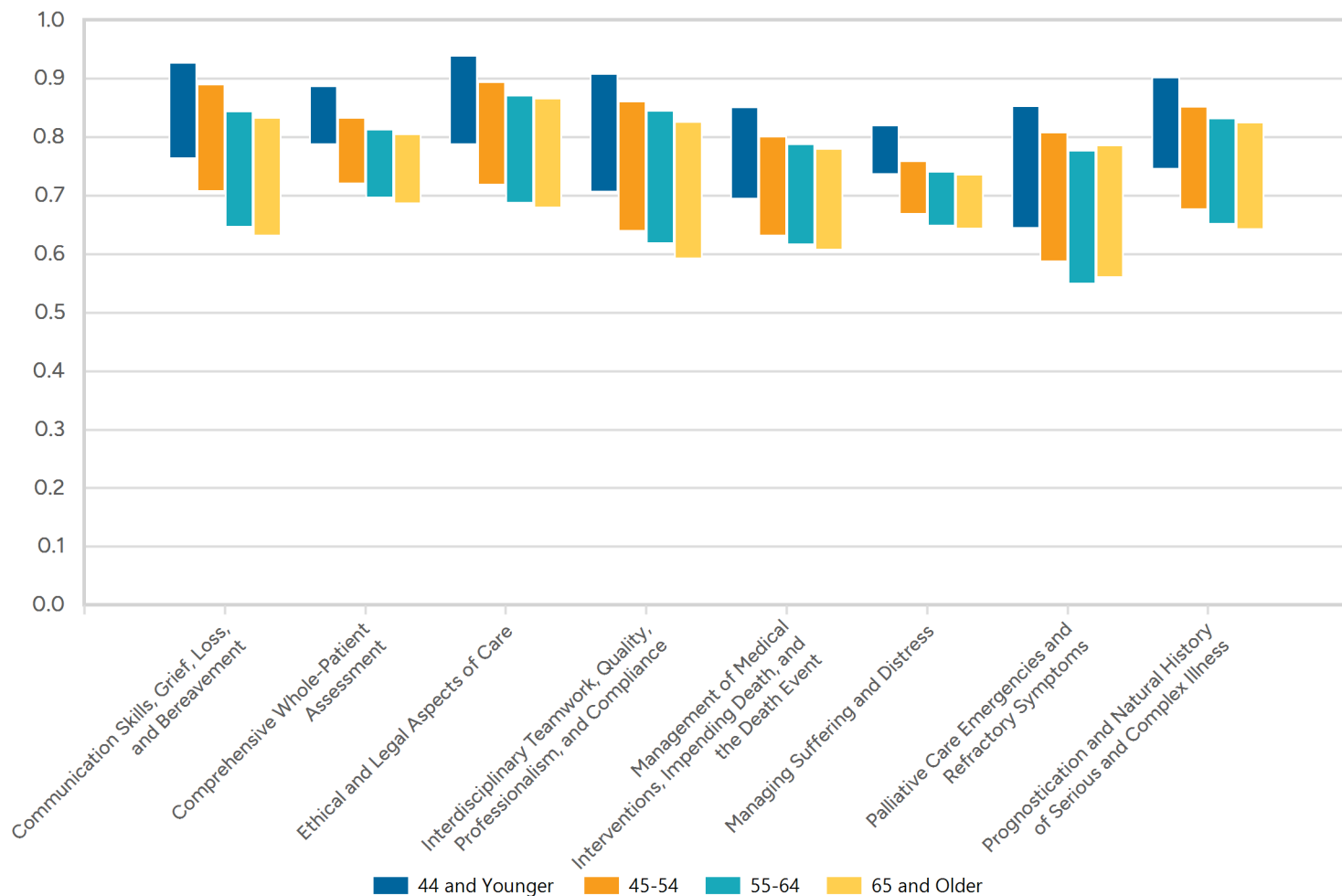

Legend: DO, IMG, US/Canada

REGION

The chart below shows physician performance on each of the top-level blueprint categories on the LKA by the U.S. Census Bureau region in which the physician lives (Midwest, Northeast, South, West). Demographic and content areas for which the bar is higher imply higher performance in those areas. Blueprint areas for which the bar is lower imply lower performance in those areas. Please consult the "General Info" section or FAQs for additional information on how you may interpret this chart.

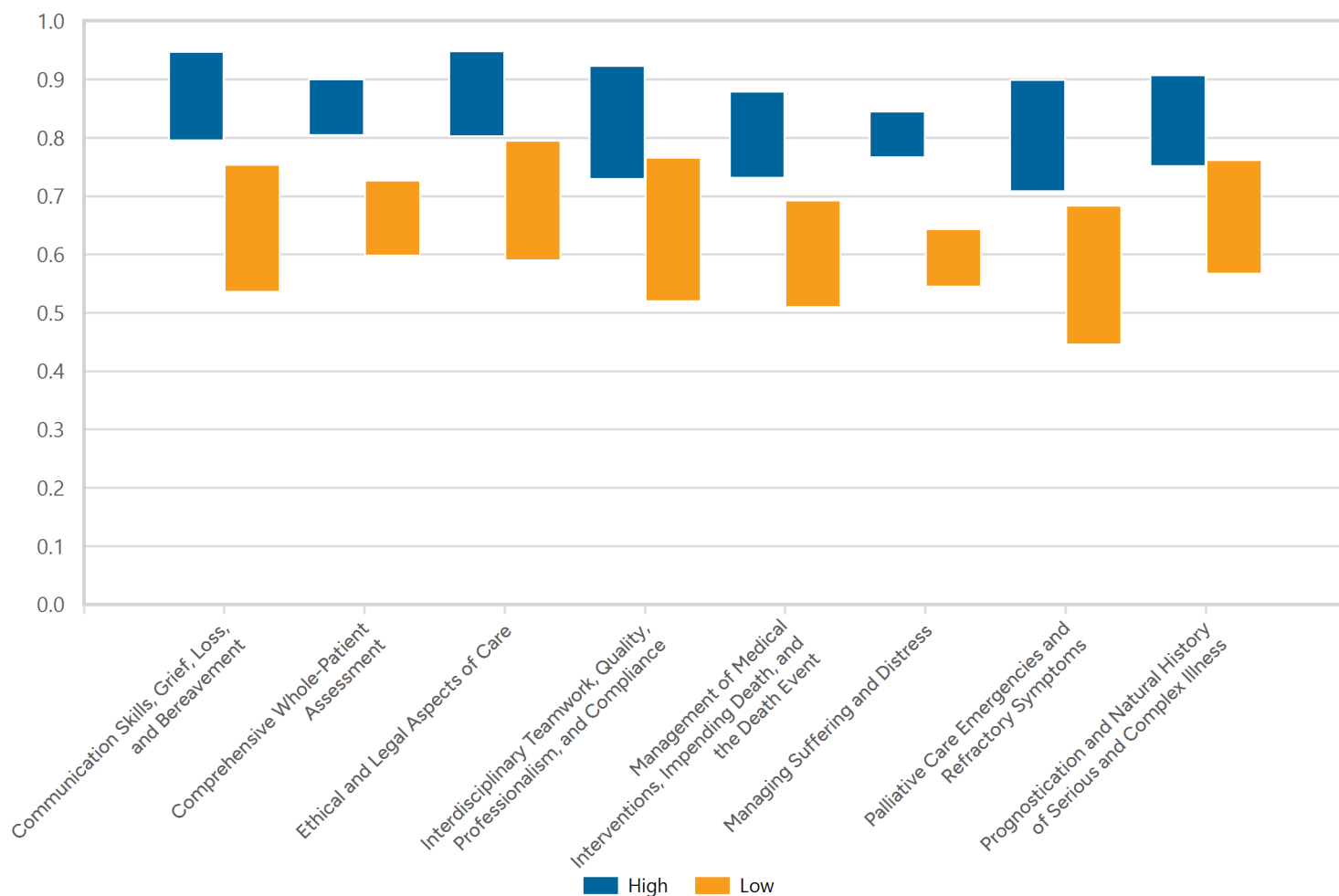Legend: ■ Midwest ■ Northeast ■ South ■ West

AGE

The chart below shows physician performance on each of the top-level blueprint categories on the LKA by age (44 and Younger, 45-54, 55-64, 65 and Older). Demographic and content areas for which the bar is higher imply higher performance in those areas. Blueprint areas for which the bar is lower imply lower performance in those areas. Please consult the "General Info" section or FAQs for additional information on how you may interpret this chart.

Legend: ■ 44 and Younger ■ 45-54 ■ 55-64 ■ 65 and Older

PERFORMANCE

The chart below shows physician performance on each of the top-level blueprint categories on the LKA by overall current performance on the assessment. High performance is defined as the top 25% of physicians in the LKA in the given discipline and Low performance is defined as the bottom 25% of physicians in the LKA. Please consult the "General Info" section or FAQs for additional information on how you may interpret this chart.

Legend: ■ High ■ Low

MOST FREQUENT INCORRECT ITEMS

The table below shows the blueprint categories (going down to a maximum of three levels) and their associated tasks for the LKA items that physicians performed lowest on. Specifically, the table shows the 20 items with the lowest percent correct values that were administered to at least 100 physicians. This table can be used in conjunction with the charts above to better understand areas for improvement. Whereas the charts above show specific content areas in which physicians are performing better or worse, this table provides more detailed information identifying the specific topics and content areas in which physicians are not performing well.

Description	Task
Communication Skills, Grief, Loss, and Bereavement	
Conflict resolution skills	Treatment/Care Decisions
Comprehensive Whole-Patient Assessment	

Concepts of total pain and suffering
  Social (including financial)
	Risk Assessment/Prognosis/
	  Epidemiology

Pain and symptom assessment
  History
	Risk Assessment/Prognosis/
	  Epidemiology

Ethical and Legal Aspects of Care	
Decision making Pediatric decision making	Treatment/Care Decisions
Management of Medical Interventions, Impending Death, and the Death Event	
Withdrawal of life-sustaining therapies Ethical and legal standards [2 Questions]	Treatment/Care Decisions
Withdrawal of life-sustaining therapies Institutional culture and policies	Treatment/Care Decisions
Managing Suffering and Distress	
Management of non-pain symptoms Constipation	Treatment/Care Decisions
Management of non-pain symptoms Dysphagia	Diagnosis
Management of non-pain symptoms Oral conditions	Treatment/Care Decisions
Management of non-pain symptoms Sleep issues	Treatment/Care Decisions
Management of non-pain symptoms Weakness and fatigue	Diagnosis
Management of non-pain symptoms Wounds	Treatment/Care Decisions
Pain management Adjuvants	Treatment/Care Decisions
Pain management Analgesics [2 Questions]	Treatment/Care Decisions
Palliative Care Emergencies and Refractory Symptoms	
Fractures	Treatment/Care Decisions
Superior vena cava syndrome	Treatment/Care Decisions

Description	Task
Prognostication and Natural History of Serious and Complex Illness	
Cancer	Risk Assessment/Prognosis/ Epidemiology
Cardiovascular disease	Risk Assessment/Prognosis/ Epidemiology