

Objective

Increase patient-provider communication about CAM through electronic medical record (EMR) prompts and education.

Background

- Fewer than half of patients utilizing complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) disclose use to their physicians.
- Only 8% of physicians have reported discussing CAM with patients, despite prevalence use.
- Lack of discussion between patients and providers about CAM has important clinical implications for patient safety, treatment and cultural competency.

Methods

Design: Prospective cohort study of pediatric residents July 2015 - August 2015. 300 history and physical (H&P) documents reviewed, 100 from each phase (Fig 1). 20 resident participants, 8 present for the educational intervention.

Interventions:

- Add CAM subheading to EMR H&P template.
- One-hour educational conference about CAM.

Primary Outcome: Documentation of CAM use or non-use within H&P documents.

Secondary Outcome: Rate of agreement between nursing and resident documentation.

Evaluation: Chi-square analysis examined changes in rates of resident CAM-related documentation and in resident and nursing documentation concordance.

Results

- At baseline, 24% of reviewed charts included CAM-related documentation.
- Documentation rate increased to 50% after introducing a CAM prompt ($p < 0.001$).
- No significant change occurred after education: 38% of charts had CAM-related documentation ($p = 0.09$).
- Documentation rates were significantly increased from baseline through the last intervention phase ($p = 0.001$).
- Concordance between nursing and resident documents was 58% at baseline, 48% after introduction of prompts, and 35% after introducing education.

Figure 2: Resident CAM-Related Documentation

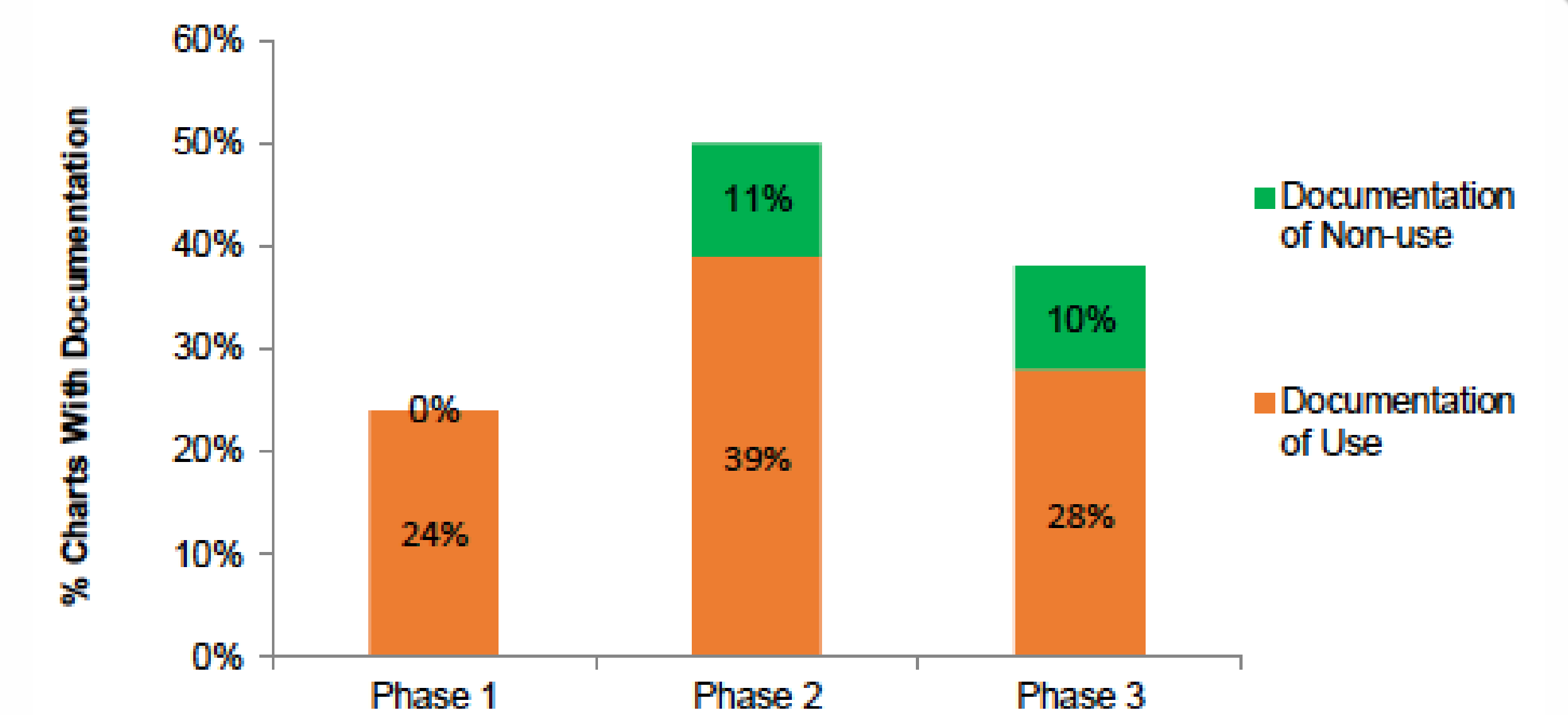


Figure 3: Resident and Nursing Documentation Concordance

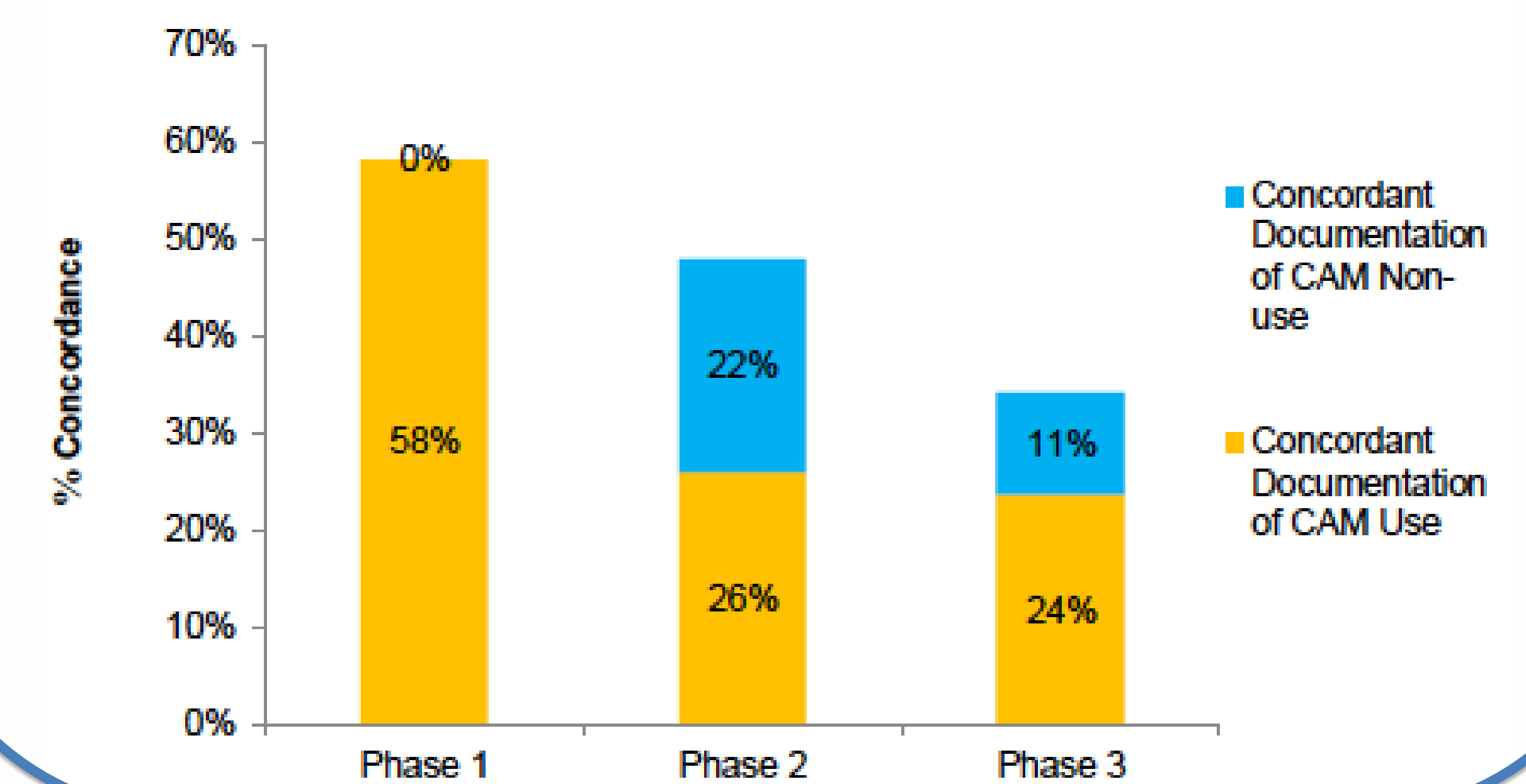
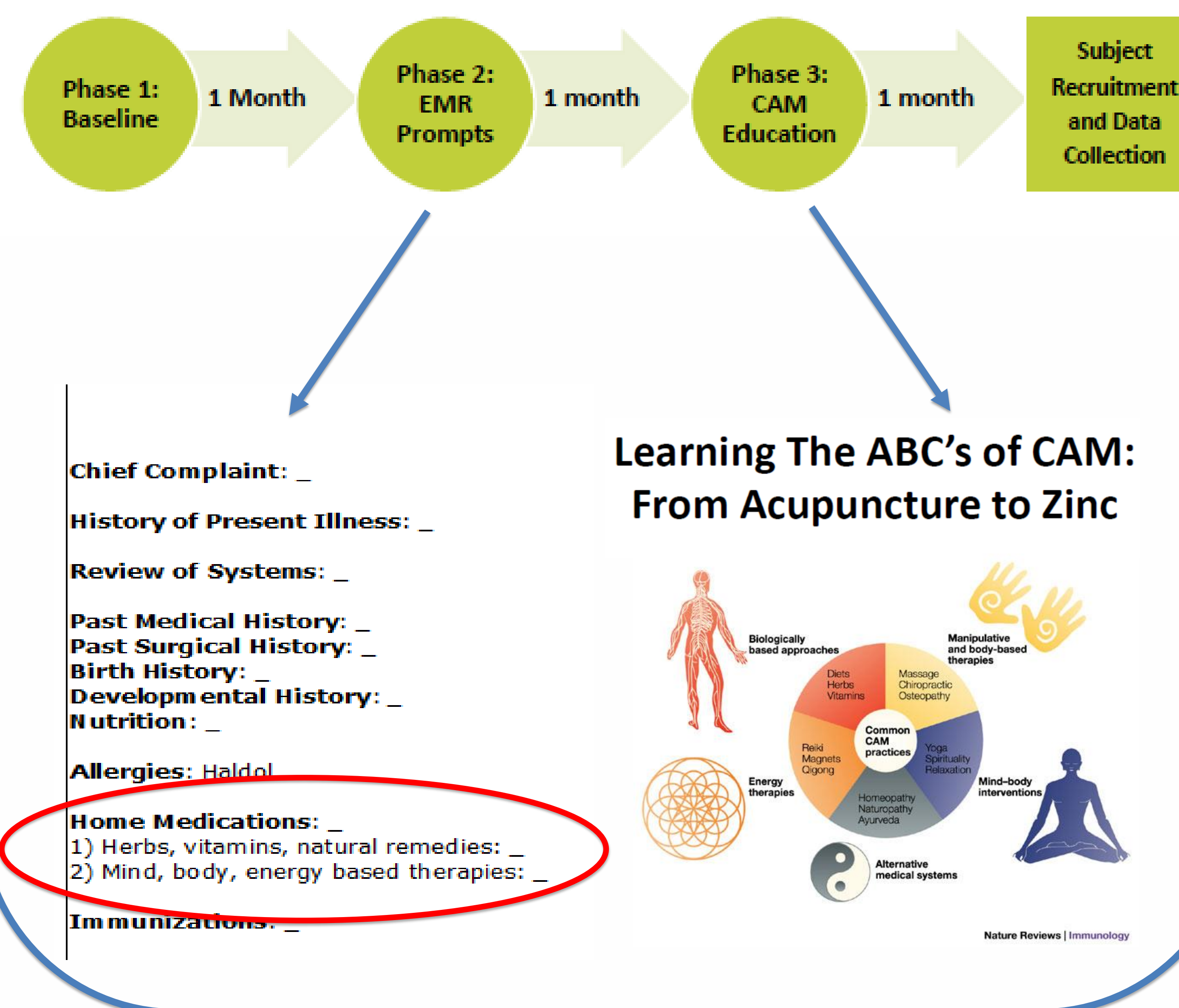


Figure 1: Study Timeline



Conclusion

- Visual prompting alone may be effective for increasing patient-provider communication about CAM.
- Education did not significantly affect rates of documentation in our study, possibly due to low exposure to the educational intervention.
- Concordance between nursing and resident CAM-related documentation was low throughout all phases, which may reflect variability in how CAM is defined and assessed.

References:

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3. Gilmour J, Harrison C, Asadi L, et al. Natural Health Product-Drug Interactions: Evolving Responsibilities to Take Complementary and Alternative Medicine Into Account. *Pediatrics* 2011;128.