

Table 11. Attributes/Factors that Encourage or Dissuade Physician Referrals to Nutrition Education Services as Reported by Physicians

Encouraging attributes	(N= 209) No. (%)
Service is free or low in cost	195 (93)
Program easily accessible to patient	155 (74)
Process of making referral is not time consuming	146 (70)
Follow-up reports provided to physician's office	134 (64)
Personal knowledge of nutrition training and expertise of program's staff	103 (49)
Personal knowledge of program's ability to work with low-income individuals	81 (39)
Dissuading attributes	
Services too expensive and/or not covered by insurance	120 (57)
Few or no services available	88 (42)
Services not easily accessible to patient	74 (35)
Perceived low patient compliance	47 (23)
Perception that own office provides adequate dietary counseling/education	32 (15)
Referral process too time consuming	23 (11)
No confidence in programs' ability to provide adequate counseling/education	11 (5)
Not convinced of the value of such services	10 (5)
Belief it is physician's sole responsibility to provide dietary counseling/education	2 (1)