

Semi-structured interview with patient or relative topic guide

TOPIC GUIDE FOR QUALITATIVE INTERVIEW WITH PATIENT PARTICIPANT

I am interested in how you see things while you have been a patient on this hospital ward.

Over the next 45 minutes I'd like to ask you some questions and for you to answer in your OWN words.

There are no RIGHT or WRONG answer to ANY of my questions.

Please be aware that we can STOP this interview at any time you wish. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO GIVE A REASON. Are you ready to start?

Introductory questions

I'd like to start this interview by asking if you would tell me the story, in any way you choose, about what happened to bring you to hospital.

A - ILLNESS RELATED QUESTIONS

I'd like you to tell me about your illness and how it has been bothering or troubling you whilst you have been in hospital. Probe by asking participant about symptoms and associated distress he or she has been experiencing

Tell me in your own words how you have been feeling in yourself

Tell me how the doctors and nurses caring for you have helped manage all these issues.

B - INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ISSUES

I'd like to ask you about other important aspects of care while you have been in hospital, for example what you have been told about your illness and treatment?

Did you completely understand what the doctors and nurses told you? What wasn't clear to you?

Did you feel that you were getting clear and consistent information from the nurses and doctors?

Were you encouraged by the doctors and nurses to ask questions about your situation? Ask for examples.

In your opinion to what extent do you feel the doctors and nurses have listened to your concerns? What more could they have done, and why?

C - INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

I'd like to explore with you to what extent you and your family has felt involved in making important decisions about your care and treatment.

Can you give me example about issues where this has taken place?

How did you and your family feel about this? What more, if anything, would you have liked to talk about, and why?

Have the doctors and nurses caring for you talked about the future? What did they discuss? How did you and your family feel about this?

What more, if anything, would you have liked to talk about, and why?

D - CONFIDENCE IN CARE PROVIDED

In what ways do you feel confident about the care and treatment the doctors and nurse have given you? Probe for examples and areas where participant does not feel confident, and why.

Do you feel that the doctors, nurses and other health professionals (e.g. Physio, OT) worked well together? Give examples if possible.

E - CONCLUSION OF INTERVIEW

Is there anything else you would like to tell me about your illness or your time in hospital?

