

2 Topic guides for development of Wound Healing Questionnaire (WHQ; A5)

Staff Interview Topic Guide for WHQ development: Perspectives on Surgical Site Infection

Opening

Interviewer will re-iterate study information and purpose of interview, answer any questions, and take written consent.

Background, interviewee detail and ice breaker

Details of interviewee role and working history in role.

Experience of SSI – lead in

1) I understand in your role as _____ you come into contact with patients experiencing wound infections after surgery.

OR

2) I understand in your role as _____ you have experience of detecting wound infections in patients that develop after surgery.

1) Surgeons, ward nurses, tissue viability nurses and other staff who come into contact with patients and may be involved in identifying and treating wound infections.

Signs/symptoms

Q. As you know wound infections are common. Can you tell me what would prompt you to treat a wound as infected? (Probe: why, what signs/symptoms or other information tell you it is infected? Does presence of pus require any treatment? How long after surgery do you see infections - in hospital/post discharge? Who is involved in the treatment of infections and why? How is the infection treated?)

Health care use: interventions and investigations.

Q. If a patient has a wound infection what follow up is required? (*Probe: observation - when, where, how often, and by whom; swabs; biopsy; xray; surgery; drainage; other? Why, how long after surgery, how often, does this vary by severity of infection, differences between in hospital/post discharge, who is involved at what stage, would anything else happen?*)

Q. Do you routinely swab wounds? (*Focus on participant on them taking/asking for the swab. Probe: why,when?*)

2) Microbiologists, methodologists and others who may be involved in detecting SSI but not necessarily involved in treating infections.

Q. Can you tell me about your experience of identifying wound infections in patients who have had surgery? (*Probe: what information is used to identify infection, how long after surgery is this information obtained, how is this information obtained, who is involved in identifying infection, how is the information used, who is contacted, do you have any contact with patients and if so why?*)

Current measures of SSI

In the Bluebelle trial we would like to find an effective way of measuring wound infection. Measures currently used widely include the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) criteria and the ASEPSIS grading scale.

Q. Are you familiar with either of these measures? (*Probe: which measure, have you used them? If yes when, why, how often?*)

We are interested in finding out how easy or difficult these current measures are to use and would value your feedback.

I have some pictures of a wound infection, with brief patient background, and a copy of the current clinician measures.

Provide patient background scenario **and** picture (mild to moderate wound infection) and ask participant to run through patient reported questions.

Using these criteria/this grading scale how would you classify this wound? If you have any comments or questions about the measures while you are doing this please do let me know.

Following questions to be asked after classification of wound pictures:

CDC criteria

Q. How did you find using these criteria to classify wound infection? (*Probe: Easy/difficult, why, which criteria?*)

Q. Do you think the criteria used are relevant? (*Probe: Why/why not? Are any more relevant than others – why/why not and when?*)

Q. Do you think the distinctions between superficial, deep, and organ/space infections are useful? (*Probe: why/why not? If yes who are they useful for – the hospital/patient and how are they useful?*)

Q. Do you have any suggestions on how these criteria could be improved? (*Probe: How, why, are there any other criteria which could be included?*)

ASEPSIS

Q. How did you find using the grading scale? (*Probe: Easy/difficult, why, which parts?*)

Q. Do you think the criteria used to identify wound infection are relevant? (*Probe: Why/why not?*)

Q. Do you think it is useful to grade wound characteristics over five days? (*Probe: Why/why not?*)

Q. Do you think it is useful to assess the proportion of the wound affected? (*Probe: Why/why not?*)

Q. Do you have any suggestions on how this grading scale could be improved? *(Probe: How, why, what other items could be included?)*

General

Q. Do you have any other suggestions about things to consider when measuring wound infection? *(Probe: why, when?)*

Q. Discharge of patients after surgery is happening earlier than previously. We are thinking about the times at which we should measure presence of infection. If measuring it within 30 days, when during this timeframe do you think it is useful to try and measure this? *(Probe: how often? Does this vary depending on the type of surgery? Appropriate person to complete?)*

Q. Patient reported measures have been developed to identify wound infection 30 days after surgery. Do you think it is possible for patients to identify if they have a wound infection? *(Probe: why/why not, if yes what questions do you think is it relevant to ask patients, and why? Is 30 days after surgery a good timeframe?)*

I have the patient measures here. Do you have any comments on these?

Closing

Interviewer checks understanding of any outstanding points, answers further questions, and checks to see if interviewee would like to receive a summary of findings.

Patient Interview Topic Guide for WHQ development: Perspectives on Surgical Site Infection

Opening

Interviewer will re-iterate study information and purpose of interview, answer any questions, and take written consent.

Background, interviewee detail and ice breaker

Interviewee background and details of procedure that the interviewee has had, how long in hospital, when discharged.

Patients experience of wound infection

Discuss the patient's experience of wound infection following planned surgery, including signs and symptoms and health care use. Note to the patient that they may or may not have experienced some of the signs/symptoms and health care use that are mentioned; we are talking to people with different experiences and asking a range of questions to capture these experiences.

Signs/symptoms

Experience of wound healing

- ***Can you tell me about the healing of your wound after your operation?*** (Probe: *where is your wound, have you looked at your wound, are you able to see your wound: what does/did it look like (discharge, redness, swelling, opening) what does it feel like (pain, heat), have you noticed any smell from you wound?*)
- ***Have you noticed/did you notice any problems with the healing?*** (Probe: *what are/were the problems, when did you notice problems, has an infection been identified, how is your wound now, has it healed and if yes when did it heal e.g. 5/10 days after surgery?*)
- ***Have the problems with your wound healing affected your life in general?*** (Probe: *How -sleep, functioning, relationships, work, for how long, and how has this made you feel? Did the wound healing affect others in your life?*)

Discharge *[if not covered in above]*

- *Have you noticed/did you notice any discharge from your wound? (Probe: where/what does/did it look like, when did this occur – before/after/during identified problems and/or wound infection, how long did it last/do you still have discharge?)*

Redness *[if not covered in above]*

- *Have you noticed/ did you notice any redness of your wound? (Probe: where/what does/did it look like, when did this occur – before/after/during identified problems and/or wound infection, how long did it last/is it still red?)*

Swelling *[if not covered in above]*

- *Have you noticed/did you notice any swelling of your wound? (Probe: where, when did it occur – before/after/during identified problems and/or wound infection, how long did it last/is it still swollen?)*

Pain *[if not covered in above]*

- *Have you experienced any pain or soreness with your wound? (Probe: where/how painful, when did this occur – before/after/during identified problems and/or wound infection, were painkillers taken – what and how often, how long did this last/is it still painful?)*

Heat *[if not covered in above]*

- *How does/how did your wound feel to touch? (Probe: cool/warm, where, when did any heat occur – before/after/during identified problems and/or wound infection?)*

Opening *[if not covered in above]*

- *Have you noticed/did you notice your wound breaking open? (Probe: where, when did this happen – before/after/during identified problems and/or wound infection?)*

Smell *[if not covered in above]*

- *Have you noticed/did you notice any smell from your wound? (Probe: when did it occur – before/after/during identified problems and/or wound infection, how long did it last/does it still smell?)*

Others signs/symptoms

- *You've talked about various things you noticed about your wound (reiterate what) are there any other things you, or other people, have noticed/noticed about your wound healing?*

Severity of wound infection/problems

- *How long did the infection/ problems with your wound last? (Probe: in hospital/post discharge)*
- *Were there any things that helped with the healing of your wound? (Probe: what, when and how?)*

Were there any things that did not help the healing of your wound? (Probe: what, when and how?)

Health care use: interventions and investigations

[Cover below topics if not already covered in relation to signs/symptoms above]

- **Have you talked to/seen any health professionals about your wound problems/infection?** (Probe: who, when, why, about what, what happened (e.g. dressings, drainage, x-ray, biopsy, another operation), how often?) [Focus discussion as relevant: in hospital stay/post discharge and who made contact: patient or health professional]
- **Have you had your dressing changed?** (Probe: how often, by whom, can/did you see your wound when the dressing was changed?)

Increased observation [if not covered in above]

- Did a health professional look at your wound while in hospital? (probe: how often, what did they look at/do/ask?)
- Did a health professional look at your wound after returning home? (probe: how often, when, where, what did they look at/do/ask?)

Investigations [if not covered in above]

- Has a health professional ever taken a sample from your wound? (Probe: when, how did your wound look/feel at the time, what happened?)

Interventions [if not covered in above]

- How long were you in hospital after your operation? (Probe: where, when discharged)
- Have you been given/were you given any medications for your wound infection/problems? (Probe: what (e.g. antibiotics), when (in hospital/post discharge), by who, how did your wound look/feel at the time, how long taken for?)

Did you need to go back to hospital for problems with your wound/wound infection? (Probe: why, where, when, what happened (e.g. dressings, drainage, x-ray, biopsy, another operation))?

Current measures

I have two questionnaires here that are currently used to assess problems with a patient's wound after they have been discharged from hospital.

We would value your feedback on how easy or difficult these questionnaires are to complete and if you think they ask useful questions. Would you mind completing these questionnaires? If you have any thoughts as you are completing the questionnaire, or don't understand what the question is asking or how to answer a question please let me know. I will also ask you some questions after you have completed the questionnaire. [Make a note of any issues talked about during the process to probe on these in more depth once the questionnaire is complete]

ASEPSIS-based PDQ

How did you find completing this questionnaire? *(Probe: easy/difficult – which questions and why? Did the questions make sense? Were they relevant to your experience – not at all, a little, quite a bit, very much? Do the response categories [explain this] make sense? Are you able to answer the questions using a yes/no answer – relate back to patients experience?)*

Question specific

I noticed/you mentioned that question X may have been/was confusing? *(Probe: what does this question mean to you? Was it easy to answer – why/why not?)*

What does question [4/5/6] mean to you? What do you understand by the term [discharge/clear yellow fluid/pus/broken open]?

Was it easy to answer question [2/7/8/9/10]? *(Probe why/why not? How could these questions be improved? Response categories?)*

Do you have any other suggestions on how the questionnaire could be improved? *(Probe: alternative wording, additional questions, response categories, layout/presentation, length of questionnaire?)*

CDC-based PDQ (PHE SSISS)

How did you find completing this questionnaire? *(Probe: easy/difficult – which questions and why? Did the questions make sense? Were they relevant to your experience – not at*

all, a little, quite a bit, very much? Do the response categories [explain this] make sense? Are you able to answer the questions using the response categories provided – relate back to patients experience? Why/why not?)

Question specific

I noticed/you mentioned that question X may have been/was confusing? *(Probe: what does this question mean to you? Was it easy to answer – why/why not?)*

What does question [2] mean to you? What do you understand by the term [discharge/leakage/ clear or blood stained/yellow green pus]?

Was it easy to answer question [1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8]? *(Probe why/why not? How could these questions be improved? Response categories?)*

Do you have any other suggestions on how the questionnaire could be improved? *(Probe: alternative wording, additional questions, response categories, layout/presentation, length of questionnaire?)*

General

When after your discharge from hospital do you think would be the best time to complete a questionnaire? *(Probe: Why? Methods of receiving and returning questionnaire -person, post, (SAE for return) email?)*

Closing

Interviewer checks understanding of any outstanding points, answers further questions, and checks to see if interviewee would like to receive a summary of findings.