

## Supplementary Material 18 – Clinician interview topic guide

### **Interviews with clinicians**

Interviews will be carried out with the aim of interviewing 10 clinicians at each participating trust – 5 referring and 5 receiving clinicians. The aim will be to explore the acceptability and usefulness of the intervention. Clinicians who are less enthusiastic about the intervention should be invited to participate, as well as those who are positive about it. The Implementation Champions may be able to advise on this theoretical sampling. The QR will need to be flexible as the participants are likely very busy at work.

- Approach potential interview participants\*
- Arrange a time and place (if not telephone) suitable and convenient for them
- Obtain consent
- Record interviews

### **Before interview:**

Introduce yourself and thank them for agreeing to meet. Explain and remind what the study and the interview is about and check that they do not have any questions regarding the Information Sheet or Consent Form. Emphasise points regarding recording, anonymised quotes, and right to withdraw. If they are happy, check they have completed the consent form correctly, and fill in your parts.

Switch on the recorder.

### **Topic guide:**

#### *Clinician Interview Topic guide*

Can you explain your role and position within the hospital?	
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Have you used [DSF]?	How often?
Tell me about the last case when you considered admission/received a referral. .... And the one before that	How did you use the DSF? Where did it fit in the process?  How did you find using the DSF?  Did it change the way you approached or thought about decisions about ICU referral/admission (use as appropriate)?
Why did you use it?	Consultants – role models – using it to teach others?  Registrars/trainees – doing the weighing up or only documenting?
Is there anything you did not like about the DSF?	Why?  What would you change?  If you had questions about completing the DSF, did you know who to ask? Did you ask for help?
Is there anything specific you liked about the DSF?	Why? How could it be improved?
Would you like to continue using it if it were available?	Why/not?  How could we (have) encourage(d) use of it?
Did you give out a PIL/FIL?	

At end of interview:

Make sure they feel that we have covered everything they wanted to, switch the recorder off if they are happy. Thank them again.

*\*Potential participants will have been approached in earlier meetings or training sessions. This will ensure those interviewed will be those who have experienced the full intervention – i.e. the training and the DSF. It will also ensure that the QR can conduct theoretical sampling for characteristics such as age, gender, length of service, speciality, job role.*