

Supplementary Material 3 – Family interview schedule

**REC number: 15/WM/0025**

**Understanding and improving the decision-making process for treating people who are critically ill**

**Interview schedule for interviews with family member(s)**

**Initial**

Introductions and acknowledgement of the difficult situation for the family with their family member so ill. We are interested in your experiences as a member of (patient name) family.

*Would it be right if I could talk to you about .....what just happened...about your husband's care. It only need take a few minutes.*

1. Are you aware of any decisions that the doctors looking after (patient name) have made over the past few (hours/day)?
2. Please tell me about communication you have had with any doctor, nurse or other staff about this.
3. Can you tell me about your experience of this decision? What happened? How did you feel?

## **Two months**

Introductions and acknowledgement of current situation of patient (well, ill, deceased)

We are interested in your experiences as a member of (patient name) family.

*Lead into interview questions:*

Either:

When we met (state date and situation) you told us about decisions that the doctors looking after (patient name) had made. These included (summary of what decisions they described in first interview). Looking back now can you describe your experience of those decisions?

OR

We are interested in the decisions that the doctors looking after (patient name) made when (patient name) was in hospital and very unwell. Are you aware of any decisions that the doctors looking after (patient name) made?

Can you tell me what those decisions were?

Can you describe your experience of these decisions?

*Focussing on the decision regarding whether to admit to ICU the following questions/prompts will be used:*

Looking back to that decision we would like to hear your reflections – please tell me

What do you remember about how the decision was made?

Were you involved in the decision in any way? ...In what way were you involved?

Do you think the way the decisions were made could be improved in any way? ...In what way could they be improved?

What kind of information would have been helpful to you at that time? (prompts includes content and format)