

Supplementary Material 5 – Clinician 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 clinicians (WP1)**

**ICU clinician (registrar or consultant)**

1. How did you first get to know about the patient?
  
2. Can you talk me through how you made the decision? *Prompts: What did you take into account? What do you think influenced you when making this decision? **Circumstances?** **Persons?** **Resources?** How do you feel about the decision?*
  
3. Can you tell me about your experience of the process to reach the decision? *Prompts: How did you collect the information you needed? Tell me about how you experienced the communication during the process? What do you think influenced the decision of the doctor to contact critical care? Communication with anyone else that you experienced as important for the decision? How about communication with patient and the family? What was good, what was difficult?*
  
4. Did you seek any advice or support for your decision, any specific person?

5. Thinking more generally, tell me about any difficulties when responding to referrals and making decisions whether to admit patients or not to ICU? How could these difficulties be overcome? How could they be improved? (*prompts communication, documentation; enough information; time; ward environment; ICU bed availability.*)
6. How do you think your way of making these decisions compares with your colleagues?
7. What support would be useful for you when facing this type of decision?
8. Are you aware of any hospital or national policies about this kind of decision-making?  
*Prompt? If not where would you look for policies or guidance on this? Does your ICU team have any process for going back and review the decisions?*

### **Background**

Age:

Specialty:

Years as consultant/reg:

Graduation year:

### **Referring clinician**

Introduction and reminder of the case observed

1. Can you talk me through how you made the decision to contact the critical care team?

a) What led up to the decision? *Circumstances? Persons?*

a) What do you think was the most important to take into account when you made the decision to refer?

2. How do you feel about the decision? *Follow-up: Were there any difficulties for you?*

3. Tell me about how you experienced the process of referral (prompts communication with the ICU team, discussion of the decision? *Follow-up: What do you think influenced the decision of the ICU physician? The referring doctor. Communication with anyone else that you experienced as important for the decision?* How about communication with patient and the family? What was good, what was difficult?

4. What is your general experience of the decision making regarding referring patients to ICU?

5. Thinking more generally, how could decision making processes whether to admit patients or not to ICU be improved? Prompts, pre referral processes, referral process, review and follow up

6. What type of support would be useful for you when facing this type of decision? *Follow-up: What format of this support would be useful?*

7. Are you aware of any policies about this kind of decision-making?

**Background**

Age:

Specialty:

Years as consultant:

Graduation year:

## Other clinicians

1. I am just curious to know how come you volunteered for this interview?

2. In the past three weeks have you referred to ICU any patients under your care?

A) **If yes**, starting with the most recent patient, can you talk me through how you made the decision to contact the critical care team (repeat for up to 5 cases)

*Follow-up: Who did you contact and for what reason? What do you think influenced you when making this decision? Circumstances? Persons? What was the outcome, admission to ICU or not? What do you think was the most important to take into account when you made the decision?*

B) **If no**, did you consider referring patients, but made the decision not to? Please, tell me about how you reasoned about not referring?

*Follow-up: What do you think influenced you when making this decision?*

*Circumstances? Persons? What do you think was the most important to take into account when you made the decision?*

C) **If you have not considered referral**, can you talk me through reasons for not referring to ICU?

3. What is your general experience of the decision-making referring patients to ICU? *Follow-up:*

*How do you think your way of making decisions to refer compare with your colleagues?*

4. Thinking more generally, how could decision making whether to admit patient or not to ICU be improved?
  
5. What type of support would be useful when facing this type of decision? *Follow-up: What format of this support would be useful?*
  
6. Are you aware of any policies about this kind of decision-making?

**Background**

Age:

Specialty:

Years as consultant:

Graduation year: