

## SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW TOPIC GUIDE (CARERS)

### Topic Guide

#### Topic 1 - General experience

- Initial open-ended questions regarding their general experience caring for someone with locally advanced or recurrent rectal cancer pelvic exenteration surgery
- *'Could you tell me about your experience caring after someone with [locally advanced or recurrent] rectal cancer?'*
- *'Could you tell me what it has been like to care for someone requiring major cancer surgery?'*

#### Topic 2 - Diagnosis

- *'Could you tell me about how you first found out your loved one had [locally advanced or recurrent] rectal cancer?'*
- *'What were your first thoughts when you heard the words "rectal cancer"? Had you ever heard of it before?'*
- Enquire about what were they most interested to learn more about when their loved one was first diagnosed - which were the post-surgical outcomes they were most interested to know about?

#### Topic 3 - Treatment

- Enquire how they and their loved one decided whether to undergo pelvic exenteration surgery, how involved was the carer or spouse in the decision-making process?
- Ask which information they asked for and how it impacted their decision making
- Ask about the impact surgery has/had on their loved one and their relationship, specifically prompt for physical and psychological impacts. Were these consequences expected or unexpected?
- Ask what is the most significant way that surgery has affected the carer or spouse and their relationship with their loved one? Prompt for both positive and negative impacts of surgery
- If they had to help their loved one make the decision about undergoing surgery again, which would be the most important factors to be aware of and consider?
- Ask unambiguously which outcomes of pelvic exenteration surgery are the most important when deciding whether to have surgery, and how each outcome would influence this decision

#### Conclusion

- Final open ended question: *'Is there anything else that we haven't addressed that you think is important for patients with locally advanced or recurrent rectal cancer and their carers to be aware of or consider when deciding about whether to undergo surgery?'*

## SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW TOPIC GUIDE (PATIENTS)

### Topic Guide

#### Topic 1 - General experience

- Initial open-ended questions regarding their general experience having locally advanced or recurrent rectal cancer and pelvic exenteration surgery
- *'Could you tell me about your diagnosis and treatment journey with [locally advanced or recurrent] rectal cancer?'*
- *'Could you tell me about the surgery you underwent to treat your tumour?'*

#### Topic 2 - Diagnosis

- *'How did you first come to be diagnosed with [locally advanced or recurrent] rectal cancer?'*
- Enquire about what were they most interested to learn more about when first diagnosed - which were the post-surgical outcomes they were most interested to know about?

#### Topic 3 - Treatment

- Enquire how they decided whether to undergo pelvic exenteration surgery and any other treatment options
- Ask which information they asked for and how it impacted their decision making
- Ask about the impact surgery has/had on the participant, specifically ask about physical and psychological impacts. Were these consequences expected or unexpected?
- Ask what is the most significant way that surgery has affected the patient? Prompt for both positive and negative impacts of surgery
- If they had to make the decision about undergoing surgery again, which would be the most important factors to be aware of and consider?
- Ask unambiguously which outcomes of pelvic exenteration surgery are the most important when deciding whether to have surgery, and how each outcome would influence this decision

#### Conclusion

- Final open ended question: *'Is there anything else that we haven't addressed that you think is important for patients with locally advanced or recurrent rectal cancer to be aware of or consider when deciding about whether to undergo surgery?'*