Appendix 1 – Topic Guide

1. **Can you describe what you as a team do immediately after a very preterm baby (<32 weeks) is born?**

   Prompts:
   - own role?

   - How do you manage provision of respiratory support/ thermoregulation?

   - Do you engage in any strategies such to facilitate placental transfusion (cord clamping/ cord milking)?

   Prompts:
   - timing of cord clamping, how long they wait
   - when they give the uterotonic drug when they delay cord clamping
   - whether they resuscitate the baby whilst waiting to clamp the cord

   - Where is the baby in relation to the mother?

2. **Why do you do what you do?**

   - Why do you do it that way?

3. **What are the main strengths and weaknesses of the way in which you manage very pre-term babies?**

4. **Do you do practice deferred cord clamping or cord milking (as appropriate) with all babies or only some?**

   - How do you decide which babies you will manage in this way?

   Prompts:
   - baby's condition,
   - mother's condition,
   - perceived attitudes of parent/s,
   - availability of staff/equipment

   - Are there circumstances when very pre-term babies are managed differently? And, if so, what are they?

   - Do you think the procedure is appropriate for all preterm babies?

   - If not, which babies is it most appropriate for? And which babies is it least appropriate for?

5. **What are your practical experiences of managing very pre-term babies in this way?**

- How does the team manage assessment and stabilisation?

- What are the practical difficulties and how are they managed?

- What has been the reaction of mothers and/or partners?

6. **How long have you been managing very pre-term babies in this**

7. **What factors influenced your decision to start managing very pre-term babies in this way?**

8. **How easy was it to implement this way of working?**

   Prompts:
   - Facilitators
   - Barriers

9. **If another unit was thinking of introducing this practice, what would you recommend them to do?**

- Are there any pitfalls which they should try to avoid?

10. **How do you think you might improve the initial bedside care of pre-term babies?**