

Understanding and Experience of Palliative Care and End of Life Care

- What do you understand by the terms palliative care and end of life care?
- Are you regularly involved in providing palliative and end of life care?
- Do you think many inpatients in acute hospitals have palliative and end of life care needs?

Management and Organisation of Care

- Thinking about the management and organisation of care and the way palliative care is currently managed in acute hospitals: what are the main barriers and facilitators to providing palliative care in acute hospitals?
- Do you think palliative care management is approached differently in older people when compared with younger people?

Transitions and Communication

- Are there issues surrounding the transmission of information about patients with palliative care needs from the acute hospital into the community?
- What are your thoughts on how transitions to palliative care management within acute hospitals are currently managed?
- What sort of decisions made in acute hospitals indicate that a palliative care approach to patient management has been adopted?
- In your experience is a palliative care approach adopted alongside active curative treatment: a) within primary care; b) within acute hospitals?
- Is prognosis routinely discussed with patients in acute hospitals? Do you feel it ought to be?
- Are decisions about adopting a palliative approach to patient management disclosed to patients and/or their families?
- What would trigger such discussions? Who would be involved in these discussions?

Appendix 1: Interview and focus group question guide