

Appendix 1. Topic guides.

Patient focus group topic guide

Introduction and Ground Rules

Icebreaker

Tell us about your experiences of MMDs and eMMDs?

“Show and tell”

Show the eMMD devices and allow the participants to handle for 5-10 mins.

using ‘think aloud’ technique prompt

- How usable do you think the devices are?
- What do you think are the good points of these devices?
- What do you think are the bad points of these devices?
- How useful do you think the carer’s alert is?

We are planning on doing a bigger study on these devices, it would a randomised controlled trial. This means that half of the people in the study would get an electronic MMD and the other half would get a regular MMD. Which group people would be in, would be decided at random, like the toss of a coin.

- Do you think you would like to be in a study like this?
- If not, what would you not like?
- How would you feel if you were in the “control” group (MMD)

If we do a bigger study, we will need to use different measures to see how good they are at reminding people to take their medication. What do you think would be a good measure?

Prompt

- symptom questionnaires
- pill counts
- results of blood tests
- looking at medical records
- looking at visits to GP and hospital

If we do a bigger study, what do you think would be the best way to invite people to be part of the study?

Prompt

- Letter from pharmacist?
- Poster at pharmacist?
- Letter from doctor?
- Some other method?

End the session:

- Is there anything else you would like to add?
- Thank the participants

REMIND Professional focus group schedule

Introduction and Ground Rules

Icebreaker

“Show and tell”

Show the eMMD devices and allow the participants to handle for 5-10 mins.

Tell me about your experiences of using MMDs and eMMDs

- Perceived advantages, perceived disadvantages, acceptability.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of different means of contacting carers when adherence problems are detected?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of adherence measures such as pill counts?

In your experience who usually makes the decision to use MMDs in general?

- doctor, nurse, patient, lay carers, pharmacist

Why do some patients receive these aids on the NHS while others do not? How many people purchase their own system?

Which people are most likely to benefit from eMMDs

- how those patients can best be identified using existing tools

Which conditions may act as good models for measuring the impact on adherence of these devices

What sorts of physiological, clinical or biochemical outcomes might be practical to use in a RCT as an outcome measure?

End the session:

- Is there anything else you would like to add?
- Thank the participants