

Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): Interview guide

1. We are interested in finding a little more about the waiting times you experienced for your cancer. When did you first start feeling ill?

Probes:

- When did you first notice symptoms?
- What were your symptoms?
- When did you see a physician?
- What screening tests did you have?

2. Can you talk about your first visit to the physician?

Probes:

- What happened?
- What did you discuss?
- How did you feel when the visit was over?
- Did the have an opportunity to talk with the physician about how long it would take to get a definitive diagnosis?)

3. If you did not go to see a physician, when you first noticed the symptoms, can you talk about what caused you to delay seeking treatment?

Probes:

- Competing demands on time?
- Fear, anxiety, or denial?)
- Availability or reputation of physicians?
- Seeking alternative therapy?
- Care giving responsibilities (Child or elder care?)

4. What happened once you found out you had cancer?

Probes:

- Tests
- Referral to specialist
- Surgery

5. What do you think about the amount of time it took to diagnose your cancer? Was it acceptable/satisfactory? Why or why not?

Probes:

- What could be done to improve the amount of time it takes to diagnose cancer?
- Was there anything anyone could have done to help you while waiting for your diagnosis?

6. What did you think of the amount of time it took to see the oncologist? Was it acceptable/satisfactory? Why or why not?

Probes:

- What could be done to improve access to oncologists?

What could be done to improve access to cancer treatments?

7. In your community, what are the barriers to having timely cancer care?

Probes:

To diagnosis? Transportation/financial issues

Once you have been diagnosed? Availability of treatments

8. In your community, what helps to provide timely cancer care?

Probes: Local clinics

Visiting specialists

Telemedicine

9. Other comments? Is there anything you would like to tell me about your experience that I have not asked you?