

## Supplemental Digital Appendix 1

### Semi-Structured Interview Guide, From a Study of Medical Trainees' Experience of Treating Chronic Pain Patients, University of Toronto, 2015

*Please note that this guide only represents the main themes to be discussed with the participants and as such does not include all the various prompts that may be used.*

#### Preamble

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the interview. We are interviewing you to better understand the training you received in caring for patients with chronic non-cancer pain, your experiences of providing care for these patients, and your reflections on any benefits or challenges that you have faced in providing this care. We are interested in your *own* experiences and reflections, so there are no right or wrong answers to any of our questions. Participation in this study is voluntary and your decision to participate, or not participate, will not affect you professionally. You can withdraw from the study at any time and contact information to do so is provided in your study information and informed consent package.

#### General description of current practice (or work situation)

I'm going to start by asking you to describe your current work as a medical student or resident (please note that *the specificities* of this question will be modified to fit with the work, broadly defined, of the person being interviewed. The *topic areas* will remain similar).

Potential prompts: How long have you been in practice here? Can you take me through a typical day?

Potential prompts: What sorts of things do you do? How do you know to do that? How would you describe what you do if you were talking to someone (like me) who wasn't a clinician?

#### Training in treating chronic pain

Can you share with me your reflections on being trained in how to respond to and treat chronic pain, including how to manage any personal responses you may have had?

Potential prompt: Were you explicitly taught these strategies for coping with your own reactions?

#### Experiences of patients with chronic pain (or care for chronic pain)

Can you give me a concrete example of a time when you provided care for such a patient and just walk me through what you did to provide care for them?

Potential prompts: What did you do? How did you know to do that? Did you have to fill out any forms? Was anyone else involved with that work? When you are doing that work, what are some of the main challenges you face? What benefits?

#### General understandings of empathy

What does empathy mean to you? How is empathy relevant to your clinical practice?

#### Conclusion

Is there anything else that you would like to comment on in relation to this topic that you feel is important and that I might have left out?

Thank you very much for your time and the information you shared today.