

Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors)

INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. Welcome

- Introduce moderator and assistant moderators

2. A brief overview of study

- Review objective of the study: to understand how to improve the diabetes care of patients with diabetes and kidney disease
- Refreshment, stretch break at ½ way point during today's interview
- Any questions?

3. Moderators will review focus group guidelines

1. No right or wrong answers, only differing points of view
2. Sessions will be audiotaped
3. Every effort will be made to maintain confidentiality by the researchers i.e. responses will be “de-identified” once they are recorded, but it will also be the responsibility of all participants to also maintain confidentiality as well. The conversations should not leave this room. Despite all of these precautions, total confidentiality can never be guaranteed
4. One person speaking only at a time. Please speak in a clear & loud voice!
5. You don't need to agree with others, but we ask that you please listen respectfully as others share their views
6. Please turn off your phones
7. This session may bring up questions about *your* health. Please speak with your appropriate healthcare provider i.e. nephrologist if necessary
8. Participants will play an integral and important part in the creation of future recommendations and areas of additional study needed. Thank-you!!

4. Questions

General Experience living with Diabetes and chronic kidney disease

1. What is it like having both diabetes and chronic kidney disease?
i.e. are you surprised, or were you ever made aware that diabetes could lead to CKD?
2. What do you find particular challenging about living with both conditions?
3. Was there a particular time where you felt that managing your diabetes was especially challenging?
4. a) Do you think that having multiple medical conditions impacts your friends, families and/or others?
b) Can you give an example of how it might impact them?

Balance and prioritization of diabetes

1. Apart from diabetes and kidney disease, what other medical conditions do you have *i.e. HTN, CAD, depression/anxiety, other DM co-morbidities, cancer*?
2. How much do you worry about your diabetes compared with your other health problems? Why?
3. How would you rank your diabetes compared with your other medical conditions (scale of 1-10)?

Coping skills and self-management

1. What is your current diabetes care regimen (*i.e. oral medications +/- insulin*)?
2. How often do you check your sugars?
3. Do you write down/track your blood sugars?
4. Do you always take your diabetes medications? And if not, why not?
5. What is your biggest struggle with taking care of your diabetes *i.e. hypoglycemia, time, etc.*?
6. Do you need to rely upon others for help with your diabetes? *i.e. your spouse to help give insulin, to help with hypoglycemia, for transportation to appointments, etc.,*

Diabetes healthcare

1. Do you have a doctor that takes care of your blood sugars?
a) What type of doctor takes care of your diabetes?

- b) Are you satisfied with your current care (scale of 1-10)?
2. Do you see multiple health providers for your medical conditions?
- a) If so, how do you feel about this? Is this working for you?
- b) If you see multiple providers, can you recall a time that was especially challenging?
3. What role does your family doctor play?
- a) What do you see them for? *i.e. general health screening i.e. osteoporosis, medication renewals, other?*
- b) Are they a helpful member in your team? *i.e. do they help to oversee the specialist team, etc.?*
4. For a person with multiple health issues, what do you find most challenging about your current healthcare?
- b) What is particularly frustrating for you *i.e. frequent hospitalizations, multiple appointments?*
- c) Can you think of a time where you found yourself particularly overwhelmed with your healthcare?
5. Attached are a list of complications that can occur in people with diabetes and chronic kidney disease, which are most concerning to you? Can you rank them?
- Eye (retinopathy)
 - Cerebrovascular (stroke, heart disease, heart failure, peripheral claudication)
 - Renal
 - Feet (ulcers, amputations)
 - Hypoglycemia
 - Hyperglycemia
 - Mood (depression, anxiety)
 - Frequent hospitalizations and re-hospitalizations
 - Lower quality of life
 - Neuropathy (pain)
6. Suppose you had one minute to summarize what it's like to live with diabetes and CKD, what challenges do you face with healthcare system. What would you say?
7. Living with diabetes and CKD, I'm most frightened/concerned about X?

For dialysis patients

1. What is your dialysis schedule like?
2. How do you spend your time on dialysis?
3. a) Would you be receptive to diabetes care in the dialysis unit?
b) If so, what type of care would you be receptive to?

Strengths and Limitations of prior care programs

1. There have been prior studies which have examined ways to better support patients' diabetes.

In this study for example, X was established as a diabetes care program

- a) How do you feel about this program?
- b) Would you participate in it?
- c) Do you think it would be helpful to you?

{The above questions will be repeated as we present a number of different options to participants}

New diabetes care programs

1. How could we better help with your diabetes?
2. Can you suggest some programs that might work?
-e.g. dialysis programs, telephone support, outreach clinics, education?

5. Conclusions (Moderators)

Summarize session – Is this an adequate summary?

Review if anything has been missed

Thank-you and dismissal