

Supplementary file 3. Example preliminary topic guide for interviews with clinicians

- Introductory remarks, including taking verbal consent
- Can you tell me about yourself?
 - What is your current position and role?
 - Can you describe the range /type(s) of surgical procedures you undertake?
 - Particular areas of interest/expertise?
- As you know, we are looking at innovation in surgery. Can you talk me through how you would define innovation? (Newness; degree of change, level of risk, impact?)
- Have you experienced an innovative procedure being implemented into practice?
 - If so, can you describe it to me? What made it innovative?
 - What about a time when you have had to learn a new procedure?
 - Potential Prompts: How/where implemented? How did you learn about it? Any changes/refinements over time?
 - Was the procedure monitored in anyway?
 - What has happened to it now?
- If you or a colleague did develop an innovative procedure, do you think ethics approval is needed?
- Is there a procedure for implementing an innovative procedure at your hospital?
- Do you think patients should be informed about the new procedure? What aspects important to communicate?
 - How do you think patients will respond to innovative procedures? What does 'informed consent' mean to you?
- Ending the interview: Is there anything else that I haven't mentioned? Anyone else you recommend I could contact?