

Supplementary File 1: Interview Guide

You are being asked to participate in this research project because we would like to know your views with respect to the use of some questions. These questions are recommended for use by patients in conversation with their general practitioner when deciding to have a CT scan. The recommended questions are:

1. Do I really need this test or procedure?
2. What are the risks?
3. Are there simpler, safer options?
4. What happens if I don't do anything?
5. What are the costs?

The interview should take approximately 30-45 minutes and with your permission it will be digitally-recorded to ensure that all key points are accurately documented. Any identifying information (for example the names of other individuals) that you use in the course of our discussion will be removed from the interview transcripts. If you wish to end the interview before I have asked all of the questions or if you wish to withdraw from the study you are free to do so.

There may appear to be overlap between the interview questions that form part of the interview. Each question is worded to obtain specific information and so you may find that answers are repeated. It is important to note that there are no right or wrong answers to the questions and that no one will know what your specific answers were.

Note to the Interviewer: Depending on how the participant answers the questions, the order in which these questions are asked can change.

Questions

1. Tell me about your visit to medical imaging?
Prompts:
What test are you having?
What are you having the test for?
What is the most important thing about having the test?
What are the disadvantages of having the test?)
2. Tell me about the decision to have the test?
Prompts:
Did you have a discussion/ask about it as an option with your doctor?
What was important in the discussion?
What questions did you ask?
What was missing in the discussion? i.e. was there information that you desired, but did not receive?
3. Was the reason/pros and cons for having the test explained to you?
Prompts:
What were the benefits of having the test done?
What were the negative aspects of having the test done?
Did you feel you had an option to choose (or choose not) to have the test done?

- How did you come to your decision?
- 4. Did deciding to have the test cause you anxiety or stress? If yes, can you explain?
Alternative to Question 4:

What feelings or emotions did you feel when deciding to have the test?

- 5. Do you know other patient(s) who have had the test done?
Prompts:
Did this influence your opinion of the test? (“Good or bad” to have it done?)
- 6. Have you heard of the following five questions that you can use to find out information from your doctor about your test?

(Instructions for interviewer: Provide patient with printed list of the following questions)

- 1. Do I really need this test or procedure?
- 2. What are the risks?
- 3. Are there simpler, safer options?
- 4. What happens if I don't do anything?
- 5. What are the costs?
- 7. If patients new about these questions, do you think they would ask the questions of their doctors?
Prompts:
What would help them to ask?
What would stop them asking these questions?
- 8. Do you think the five questions would help patients to weigh up the benefits compared to the risks of having the test?
Prompts:
If so, how would the questions help?
If not, can you tell me more about why?
- 9. Do you have any suggestions for how to inform patients about these questions? If so, what are your suggestions?