Supplementary file 1. Interview Questions – exemplars/guide

(Questions drawn from across both studies - Dataset 1 and Dataset 2)

Opening questions

- How is research organised in your critical care unit?
- Tell me about the infrastructure in your critical care unit to support research.
- What can you tell me about your research infrastructure in your organisation?
- How is this supported at different levels (*prompts*: local (unit)/division/board levels)?
- Can you explain what you see as the barriers, or facilitators to recruitment in NIHR trials? (*prompts*: Are there specific examples* you can give me in your unit?)

Culture -

- How do you embed a new (NIHR) study in your unit?
- How is research prioritised in your unit?
- What can you tell me about how the unit decides whether to participate in a research project? (prompts: any specific authorisation needed? e.g. clinical unit head/equipoise issues)

Local/National -

- What do you see as barriers/facilitators at a network level? (*prompts:* Or outside of unit/organisational control?)
- What do you see as local recruitment barriers/facilitators (*prompts*: give examples - clinician buy-in/behaviour)?
- How do you embed research in your unit, and organisation?

Process/Studies/People factors –

- Can you describe where study recruitment has gone well/not so well*? (*prompts*: examples)
- What is your experience of how screening affects study recruitment? Tell me about how you screen patients for studies?
- Can you describe any patient/participant/family* factors that facilitate/inhibit recruitment? (*prompts*: explore burdens/scheduling/demands of study)
- Tell me about how you recruit patients for studies? (*prompts*: families/process/infrastructure)
- What kinds of concerns have patients/relatives raised to you regarding study participation (*prompts:* related to placebo/randomization/uncertainty)?

- Can you describe any study factors that facilitate/hinder recruitment? (*prompts:* examples)
- Tell me about your experience in conveying complex information and gaining consent (*prompts:* complexity of information/experience of team obtaining consent/language or cultural barrier)?
- For randomised trials, have you encountered patient/family preference for a particular therapy? If so, can you talk me through the issues encountered.

- Can you describe any clinician factors (nurse or doctor) that inhibit/facilitate trial recruitment in your experience?
- Tell me about the process for consent in patients without capacity? How does this affect recruitment to trials?
- What can you tell me about recruitment to studies out-of-hours? (*prompts:* who supports this?/Team working)
- What is your experience of recruiting to time-limited critical care trials?

- What is the research staff infrastructure? How does this align with the clinical teams?
- What is the experience of trainees in terms of research in the unit? (*prompts*: structures, training opportunities)?
- How are trainees and nurses/AHPs supported to engage with research (*prompts*: portfolio and non-portfolio; time/support to do 'own' research)?

Are there any barriers we have not yet discussed?

What suggestions do you have for enhancing study recruitment?

Is there anything else you'd like to talk about in terms of facilitating research in critical care?

How else can research be facilitated/supported in critical care?