



## An explorative study into the feasibility of oral health promotion and interventions by pharmacists working in general practice. A qualitative study in the North East of England

### Initial Topic Guide

The following guide outlines the key areas for exploration during the interview.

#### Aims and objectives

- To explore the knowledge and current practice of primary care pharmacists, general medical practitioners and administrative staff regarding the role of the pharmacist in oral health
- To explore the attitudes towards and perceptions of primary care pharmacists, general medical practitioners and administrative staff, regarding the role of the pharmacist in providing oral health promotion and interventions
- To explore any barriers and facilitators for utilising pharmacists in primary care to improving the interprofessional management of oral health

#### Introduction

*Aim: To introduce the research and set the context for the proceeding discussion*

- Introduce self: Researchers background, University of Sunderland
- Introduce the study: what it is about
- Talk through key points
  - This will be a conversation where I will ask you questions
  - It will last between 30 and 60 minutes
  - There are no right or wrong answers
  - You don't have to answer all of the questions if you don't want to, just let me know that you want to move on
  - Participation is voluntary and participant can withdraw at any time
- Confidentiality/ anonymity
  - Transcripts will be anonymised
  - In report writing, any quotes won't be identified as being you
- The interview will be audio recorded
  - The recording will be kept secure, only accessed by the four researchers working on the project
- This piece of paper is just to help me remember what questions I want to ask you, and I may make some brief notes during the interview to remind me to go back to something you said later on if that's ok
- Does the participant have any questions?



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**All Participants**

**Background of participant**

*Prompts:* age, employment, experience, undergraduate training, postgraduate training

**Education on oral health**

*Prompts:* undergraduate and postgraduate training, CPD, discipline only education or interprofessional, what was the focus

**Current practices - pharmacists**

*Prompts:* What is your current role in relation to oral health, is this a priority, what do you discuss with patients, when and why

**Links between prescribed medication and oral health problems - pharmacists**

*Prompts:* MRONJ, bisphosphonates, awareness, current practices, role with this patient group, any other issues xerostomia, oral cancer etc.

**Links between diabetes and periodontal disease - pharmacists**

*Prompts:* Awareness of links, significance of links, benefits of periodontal treatment

**Current practices in diabetic patients - pharmacists**

*Prompts:* Is oral health promotion in this group part of your current practice, if not why not, if yes how do you deliver this

**Current practices – GPs/Admin/Nurses**

*Prompts:* What is your current role in relation to oral health, is this a priority, what do you discuss with patients, when and why, knowledge of systemic diseases and medications affecting oral health

**Perceived role of the practice pharmacist in oral health – GPs/Admin/Nurses**

*Prompts:* Is there a role, is this a priority what does this look like, barriers, facilitators

**Interprofessional working in oral health**

*Prompts:* Current practices, what works, doesn't work and why, what are the challenges, how could this improve, learning from other areas

**Experiences of interprofessional working**

*Prompts:* Good examples, what makes it work well, what doesn't, frequency, in relation to diabetes

**Education on the role of other healthcare professionals**

*Prompts:* Particularly between medicine/dentistry/pharmacy, understanding of professional roles

**Anything further to discuss?**

**Next steps**

- Thank the participant
- Do they have any remaining questions about the research
- Reassurance around confidentiality and anonymity