

Supplemental material

Topic guide for focus group discussions

Provision of case vignette:

‘84-year old male patient, lusty, many clinical conditions and drugs (about 10). Patient is a typical case of less medication being desirable, and you think about deprescribing.’

Target information	Possible questions
1. Experiences and attitudes deprescribing	Which experiences do you have with deprescribing of medication? What are the challenges in deprescribing?
2. Motivation and situations for deprescribing	What is leading you to think about deprescribing medication?
a. Trigger situations	What if the patient in the vignette would... ... be in residence care home? ... be discharged from hospital? ... get a palliative diagnosis? ... consult you for a trivial reason like cough or DMP?
b. Patient characteristics	Would the case (vignette) differ if the patient was demented or in need of care? Are there other patient characteristics that influence your decision?
c. Reasons /Motivation	What motives/reasons do you have for deprescribing?
d. Initiative	Who is taking initiative on deprescribing? You, the patient or others?
3. Heuristics (rules of thumb)	What do you think when seeing such a long list of drugs? (on flipchart) What considerations do you undertake?
4. Substance groups	In case vignette: which medicines would you deprescribe? Is there a difference in deprescribing allopurinol or simvastatin/ASA? Why?
a. Risk-benefit weighting	What do you consider and weigh? Risk/benefit?
5. Emotions	We would like to hear about your feelings in deprescribing decisions. Do they play a role? How do you cope with doubts and fears? Provocative: What if you learned that the patient, after your deprescribing, had suffered an adverse event (e.g. apoplexy after ASA)? Do you consider/fear suchlike? What would help you in these situations?

6. Doctor-patient interaction	<p>If you consider it possible for medical reasons to deprescribe a drug: to what extent do you include the patient in that decision?</p> <p>What are your experiences with that?</p>
a. Interaction with other stakeholders	<p>Who is responsible for a patient's drugs?</p> <p>Do you have contact with other practitioners in this matter? Specialists? Pharmacists? Care-givers?</p> <p>What should contact look like? Who should be responsible?</p>
b. Risk-Benefit	<p>Do you discuss the pros and cons of deprescribing a medication with the patient?</p>
c. Conflicts	<p>What happens in case of diverging views between stakeholders on deprescribing? What happens if the patient expresses doubts or fear?</p>
7. Implementation of deprescribing attempt	<p>Imaging the decision of deprescribing had been made (case of e.g. citalopram or allopurinol).</p> <p>How in detail would you proceed practically?</p>
a. Safety-netting	<p>Would you monitor the patient post-deprescribing? How?</p>
b. Undesired Outcome	<p>Do you have strategies for undesired course / outcome of deprescribing attempts?</p>
c. Other stakeholders	<p>Who is important (helpful/hindering) for implementing the deprescribing approach other than the patient? What experiences do you have in collaboration with other colleagues/ specialists in deprescribing?</p>
8. Wishes	<p>What would facilitate deprescribing approaches for you in future? What do you need? What do you miss?</p>