

Appendix 2: Interview questions

Experience of PE:

Can you describe what happened when you were diagnosed with a blood clot (PE)? [Interviewer will choose to use ‘blood clot’, ‘pulmonary embolism’ or ‘PE’ depending on patient familiarity and preference].

What thoughts went through your mind when you were told the diagnosis?

How did/do you feel?

Would you consider the PE to be a traumatic event or not?

If you could use three words to describe your experience of the PE, what would they be?

Psychological impact following PE diagnosis:

How were/are you emotionally or mentally impacted by the diagnosis?

For how long did you feel emotionally or mentally impacted?

Are there any component of the diagnosis that worry?

How has this impacted your family or loved ones?

How would you feel if you were to recall the time that you were diagnosed with the PE?

Perceived lifestyle changes:

How have you coped since your diagnosis?

Do you often feel the physical symptoms of PE?

Has the diagnosis impacted your ability to work?

How have your day-to-day routines or activities changed?

Do you now hesitate doing any activities you used to have no concerns with?

Perceived changes on outlook on life:

Has your outlook on life changed in any way?

Have you had any changes in perspective?

Do you feel your personality has changed?

Do you feel others see or treat you differently?

Perspective on past/current treatment:

Are you satisfied with the treatment you’ve been given?

How do you think the blood thinners have helped you?

Do you think that the blood thinners have hindered you?

Do you believe additional psychological support should be offered to supplement your treatment?