

Qualitative interview guideline for parents

Background about the children and parents

- 1) How many children do you have? How old are they? Are they boys or girls?
- 2) What type of school do your children attend (probe: public, private, daycare)?
- 3) What is your civil status (married/divorced/widowed/single/etc.)? Is your child's/children's other parent(s) present?
- 4) How old are you? How old is your partner (spouse, other child's parent)?
- 5) Where were you born and raised? And your partner (spouse, child's other parent)? What is your nationality? And your partner's (spouse, child's other parent)?
 - a. For participants not originally from Switzerland:
 - i. How long have you been in Switzerland?
 - ii. How long has your partner (spouse, child's other parent) been in Switzerland?
- 6) Where in Switzerland do you live?
- 7) What is the highest level of education that you have attained? What is the highest level of education that your partner (spouse, other child's parent) has attained?
 - i. no completed school or professional education
 - iii. mandatory school (9 years in Switzerland)
 - iv. finished apprenticeship
 - v. bachelors degree
 - vi. higher professional education
 - vii. higher technical or commercial school
 - viii. university
 - ix. other
- 8) What is your current occupation? What is your rate of occupation (i.e. 25, 50, 75, or 100%) What is your partner's (spouse, other child's parent) current occupation? What is your partner's rate of occupation (i.e. 25, 50, 75, or 100%)
- 9) Could you talk about the parents' roles in the family? Who works? Who takes care of the children? Who makes the children's healthcare decisions? Who made the decision regarding the children's vaccinations?
- 10) Do your children attend daycare? Does one parent stay home with the children while the other parent works? How do you manage childcare?

Questions about the children, their health, and their healthcare

- 11) What kind of health are your children in? (prompt: any chronic illnesses? birth defects? healthy?)
- 12) For your children's health, do you consult traditional biomedical doctors? CAM providers? Both?
- 13) **When you consult biomedical providers:** For what issues do you seek biomedical doctors' input for your children? Why? How often? Can you think of an example?
- 14) **When you consult CAM providers:** For what issues do you seek CAM providers' input for your children? Why? How often? Can you think of an example?
- 15) How would you describe your family's lifestyle? (Probe: What kinds of foods does your family eat (healthy/organic/avoid toxins)? What kind of physical activities do you do? Would you consider your family as making healthy choices? Why or why not?)

Questions about vaccine practices and beliefs

- 16) **Childhood vaccinations:** I had a look at your child's/children's vaccine certificate, and I noticed... (i.e. differences between the children, missing or delayed vaccinations, all vaccinations were administered according to the OFSP/BAG recommendations, etc.*During this part of the interview, Julia and/or Mike will have the vaccination booklet in order to look it over with the parents. We decided to consider the two youngest children and to ask if there have been any

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major vaccination changes between the two youngest and the other children in the family. If there have been major vaccination changes, ask about this).

- a. Do you think your child/children had all the recommended vaccinations?
 - b. What were the reasons and/or your motivations for your children to receive the vaccinations that they did receive?
 - c. If your child/children haven't received some of the recommended vaccinations, why not?
 - d. Have all your children received the same vaccinations? Why or why not? Has something changed the way that you think about vaccinations between your children? (Prompt: learned new information about vaccinations, vaccination experience with the first child, differences between children (e.g. each child's perceived immunity/potential of getting sick, particular childhood ailments, allergies, sensitivities, etc.))
 - e. Do you have any regrets about vaccinating or not vaccinating your child/children for childhood vaccinations? Why or why not?
 - f. How do you feel about childhood vaccinations? Why? Probe:
 - Are you for them? Are you against them?
 - Worldviews: Do your religious convictions influence views on vaccines? Do your political convictions influence views on vaccines?
 - Work and family set-up: How do you prevent your children from becoming sick? How do you manage when your children are sick? Can you stay home with them? Can you take them to see a doctor?
 - Can you give examples?
 - g. What are the benefits of childhood vaccinations? What are the risks of childhood vaccinations?
 - h. Do you think there are differences between different types of vaccinations? Are some more beneficial than others? If yes, which ones? Why? Are some more risky than others? If yes, which ones? Why?
- 17) HPV:** I had a look at your child's/children's vaccine certificate and I noticed... (i.e. differences between the children, missing or delayed vaccinations, etc.)
- a. Are your children aged 11 to 14 boys or girls? Did you consider the HPV vaccine for both boys and girls? Why or why not?
 - b. Do you think your child has received all the recommended doses of the HPV vaccine?
 - c. Why did they receive them or why did they not receive them?
 - d. Were all your children vaccinated against HPV? Why or why not? What changed your mind? Prompt:
 - boys vs. girls getting the vaccination
 - learned new information about vaccination
 - vaccination experience with the first child
 - differences between children (e.g. each child's perceived immunity/potential of getting sick, particular childhood ailments, allergies, sensitivities, etc.)
 - it is a relatively new vaccine
 - e. What did you consider when deciding on the HPV vaccine for your children? Probe:
 - What does the vaccine protect against?
 - How new the vaccine is?
 - Not knowing the side effects or long-term effects?
 - Did you consider the preventative aspects for sexually transmitted infections? Does receiving the vaccine encourage earlier sexual relationships? Does its ability to protect against certain STI's influence your decision? Why or why not?
 - f. What are the benefits of HPV vaccinations? What are the risks of HPV vaccinations?
 - g. Do you have regrets about vaccinating or not vaccinating your child/children against HPV? Why or why not?

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- 18) Have your children ever had any side effects or complications from any vaccinations? If yes, what were they? And from what vaccinations? Did you expect these side effects or complications? Why or why not?
- 19) How was the actual experience of vaccinating your child/children? (prompts: stressful, child crying, painful for child, feeling helpless, agreeable/not stressful). Who vaccinated your child/children? (prompts: pediatrician, school health service, etc.)
- 20) What do you think about alternative vaccination schedules, which allow parents to decide at what moment the vaccination should be administered, even if this does not strictly follow BAG/OFSP guidelines?
- 21) Do you think vaccinations should be an individual choice for families? Why or why not? Is this how you viewed it when making your decisions? Did you consider public and community health consequences when deciding whether to vaccinate your children or not? (Probe: For example, did you consider how your child being vaccinated or not might affect other people (e.g. children infecting other children)? Why or why not?

Questions about the decision-making process regarding vaccines

- 22) How did you decide if you were going to vaccinate your children or not? Why?
- 23) With whom did you discuss vaccines for your children? (Probe: spouse/child's other parent? Parents? Friends? Family? Doctors? School doctors/nurses/medical staff? Teachers/daycare providers?) Do you trust these people and how they make healthcare decisions? Why or why not? What specifically did you discuss with these people? Did you trust what they said? Why or why not? Who was the most influential person in determining whether or not you would vaccinate your children? Why?
- 24) Did you look for information about childhood/HPV vaccines? If so, where did you look? (probe: Internet websites, forums, magazine articles, books, etc.)? Were you comfortable with the information that these sources provided? Why or why not? Which source was the most influential for you?
- 25) Did your child's school (or school health services) offer to provide vaccinations for your children? If so, which ones? What kind of information did they provide? Did you have the opportunity to discuss vaccinations with someone from the school/school health service? How was authorization requested? What do you think about this process (probe: Were you satisfied with the process? Why or why not?)?
- 26) Have you ever felt pressured to vaccinate or not vaccinate your children outside of a medical setting? By whom? (Probe: spouse/child's other parent? Parents? Friends? Family? Authorities? Teachers/daycare providers (perhaps may have excluded children from being allowed to come to daycare)?) How specifically did they pressure you? Did they influence your decision?

Questions about the decision-making process during the patient-provider interaction

- 27) When discussing the vaccination decision with your provider(s), what were your questions regarding vaccines? Were you comfortable raising these questions or concerns? How did the provider(s) react to your questions or concerns? (probe: Was the provider receptive? Were you criticized, belittled, or patronized for your questions/concerns? Were you taken seriously?) Were your questions sufficiently addressed by the medical provider(s) (**biomedical and/or CAM**)? Why or why not?
- 28) Did you discuss the vaccination decision for your children with your medical provider(s)? With a biomedical provider? A CAM provider? Or both?
 - a. **For parents seeking vaccine advice from CAM providers, probe further:** Why did you choose to seek vaccine-related information from a CAM medical provider? Do you trust this information? Why or why not? How did the discussion go? Were your questions sufficiently addressed by the CAM provider? Why or why not?

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- b. For parents seeking vaccine advice from biomedical providers, probe further:** Why did you choose to seek vaccine-related information from a biomedical provider? Do you trust this information? Why or why not? How did the discussion go? Were your questions sufficient addressed by the biomedical provider? Why or why not?
 - c. For parents seeking vaccine advice from both, probe further:** Why did you choose to seek vaccine-related information from both CAM and biomedical providers?
- 29) Have you ever felt pressured to vaccinate or not vaccinate your children by any of your providers? And in other medical settings (i.e. urgent care centers)? How specifically did the provider pressure you? How did it happen in other medical settings? Did this influence your decision to vaccinate or not vaccinate your children? How so?
 - 30) Have you ever been criticized or excluded from a practitioner's office because of your views towards vaccinations? In what circumstances? Did this influence your decision to vaccinate or not vaccinate your children?
 - 31) About how much time did you spend discussing vaccinations with your provider(s)? Do you think the medical provider(s) (**biomedical and/or CAM**) spent enough time addressing your vaccine-related concerns? Would you have liked to spend more time discussing vaccinations with your provider? Why or why not?
 - 32) How clearly did your medical provider(s) explain vaccinations to you? Did you understand the information provided to you? Would you have liked to receive more/other information from your medical provider(s)? If so, about what specifically?

Concluding Questions

- 33) In conclusion, what is the most important factor influencing your decision towards vaccinations?
- 34) Is there anything that you could recommend to improve upon how vaccines are currently administered in Switzerland? If so, what would you recommend?
- 35) Would you like to make any clarifications about anything we discussed? Would you like to add anything that we did not discuss? Do you have any questions?