

Staff Interview Topic Guide

Title of Project: Developing a Stepped Approach to Improving Sexual Function after Gynaecological Cancer: a feasibility study. (SAFFRON)

Introduction for Staff

This research aims to provide interventions to women experiencing sexual difficulty after treatment for gynaecological cancer and assess the feasibility of conducting a larger trial of its effectiveness. We wish to understand the trial processes through the eyes of relevant staff.

Researcher: Reassure staff that they do not have to answer any question they feel uncomfortable with and they can stop the interview at any time.

Researcher: Emphasise that this is about getting their views across & that all responses are anonymised & confidential. Responses will not be shared with their health care team colleagues or with trial participants.

I'd like to start by asking you about your role.

- 1 Could you briefly tell me about your role in the Trust?**
 - Encourage to highlight overall responsibilities and those in relation to gynaecological cancer patients.
 - Try to establish level of experience.
- 2 What do you think the general aim of the study was?**
- 3 Could you tell me about the aspects of the trial you have been responsible for or have been involved with?**
 - Encourage brevity & focus.

4 **Would you say that this feasibility trial was a satisfying experience for you and if so, can you say how/why?**

- Encouraged to expand.

5 **What were the least satisfying aspects?**

- Different kind of work with patients; intensity of study interventions; initial screening questions; recruitment process; impact on clinic space/overall service; equity issues.

Please can we talk in more detail about the aspects of the trial you are involved in?

Questions selected so that they are relevant to the informant's role and experience

Study-trained nurses, radiographers and psychologists

6 Before you began the study, what did you expect the interventions would be like?

Probe:

- How did you feel about taking on this role?
- In what ways do you think you were prepared/unprepared for the role?
- Have your feelings about your preparedness changed as you have delivered the intervention?

7 What was your experience of doing the study as a nurse/psychologist?

Probe:

- Experiences of care and negotiating with patients
- Did you experience any difficulties in meeting patients' expectations for care while on trial?
- How do you think things might be different/better in this respect?
- Women's responses to you
- Particular concerns/difficulties in relation to the intervention you provided?
- How did you find using the FSFI to evaluate and focus sessions?
- Was the manual helpful?
- How did you find working with a manualised intervention?
- Did it constrain your normal style/ enable more material to be covered/offer new ways of working?
- Did you experience any difficulties delivering the intervention in accordance with the manual?

- 8 What was your experience of the training to deliver the interventions?
- Did the training provide sufficient preparation for the role?
 - Which aspects of the training were most helpful, which aspects were least helpful?
 - Were there things you would like to have covered in the training that you did not? Was there any aspect of the training that you thought unnecessary?
- 9 How did you experience supervision?
- Were the sessions helpful? Was the format appropriate?
 - What do you think may have helped you more?

Nurses/Radiographers

You were asked to deliver an essentially psychological intervention. What was the experience of working in this way for you?

Explore if – more difficult at first? Anxiety provoking? Interesting/enriching practice?

Psychologists

You were asked to deliver a version of IPT. Had you been trained in IPT before? How different was this style from other ways of working that you have used with similar patients in the past?

How was the experience of working to a manual? Constraining? Helpful to focus?
Anxiety re keeping to manual?

Has working to deliver the trial interventions been different to the way you usually work as a CNS/psychologist? If so in what ways?

Did you experience difficulties in doing this? If so what were they?

Clinical team members including non study-trained nurses/radiographers

What was the experience of raising sexual concerns directly with patients like for you?

Did you experience difficulties in doing this? If so what were they? Did it alter the nature of your contact with the patient? At the first point of discussion? Did you continue to discuss sexual concerns if a patient had them after referral into study?

Did the study conflict with normal care and clinic running?

Probe:

- Was your experience of the study that it helped normal care, changed it, or made things more difficult?

Service Managers

Were you aware of the study running in the clinic? What impact did it have from your point of view as a manager?

Probe:

- Did the study conflict with normal care and clinic running?
- Was your experience of the study that it helped normal care, changed it, or made things more difficult?

Finally, is there anything else about how patients are involved in the trial and receive their care that you would like to add?