

Topic guide for EPOCH phase 2 interviews

N.b. indicative topic guide only. Interviewers are to use this guide as a starting point, and to explore related issues of interest as they arise. Questions are phrased prospectively, for use at start of process; rephrase for interviews taking place later on once implementation has begun.

1. Introductory questions

- Please could you tell me briefly what your role in this hospital is.
- Please could you tell me how you came to be involved with implementing the improved care pathway for people undergoing emergency laparotomy.

2. The care pathway itself

- Please could you tell me what in your own view the care pathway is trying to achieve.
- What do you see as the most important parts of the care pathway?
- Are any of the components of the care pathway less important, in your view?
- What parts of the care pathway do you think will be most easy to put into practice? What are the most difficult?

3. The care provided by this hospital to emergency laparotomy patients

- How good in your view is the quality of care provided to emergency laparotomy patients in this hospital?
- What is best about it? Which parts might be improved?
- Do you feel that the EPOCH care pathway will improve the quality of care provided to patients?
 - If so, why and in what way (e.g. mortality, patient experience)?
 - If not, why not?

4. Implementing the care pathway

- Did you attend the regional EPOCH quality improvement meeting on [date] at [venue]?
 - If so, how useful did you find it?
 - How far would you say it improved your knowledge of
 - the quality of care provided to emergency laparotomy patients in general?
 - the quality of care provided to emergency laparotomy patients here?
 - how care might be improved?
- What do you expect to be the main challenges in implementing the care pathway?
 - *Prompt if appropriate around resource availability, implications for different professional groups, professional engagement, multidisciplinary working, implementing change, sustaining change*
- What professional groups are involved in work to implement the care pathway?
- What are the main strategies that you and/or your colleagues are using to try to implement the care pathway?
- How far do you feel you are likely to be able to put the care pathway into practice in this hospital?

5. And finally...

- Are there any things that you think might be of interest to me which we have not covered, or only touched on?
- Is there anyone else I should speak to?