

Appendix 1

Supplemental Table 1: Semi-Structured Focus Group Guide – Surgeons, Fellows, and Residents

Background Information

General introduction to process – explain that one person only should speak at a time and do NOT identify themselves before speaking. Thank everyone for attending, go over consent form and have them verbally agree to participate, explain how confidentiality and anonymity will be protected at point of transcription, etc.

Warm-up and establishing rapport

Brief overview of the focus group study objective

Experiences of Pre-Surgery Consultation(s)

How would you describe the discussion that you have with surgical candidates at the time of consultation?

- How much time do you spend answering patient questions prior to surgery?
- Is this adequate? Is time a barrier to educating patients on their condition?

In your opinion what do patients most want to know?

- What do you tell them about the surgery and recovery?
- In your opinion what should they know about their surgery or condition?
- What would you want to know if you were a patient?

In your opinion who is the best person to deliver this information to patients?

What are the barriers to having someone else provide the information?

Do you feel patients are generally satisfied with the information given to them?

How often and to what extent do you rely on what has been told to them by other members in the team?

Information Needs at Different Points of Care

What resources do you think should be made available to them after the consultation?

- In your opinion is this feasible?

How much education are patients provided in terms of their return to ADLs, work?

Recommendations for Information Delivery

In your opinion what would be the best format for delivery of patient information? (video, brochures, etc.)?

How likely would you be to make use of (go through various options here) it?

Appendix 1 to Zahrai A, Bhanot K, Mei XY, et al. Surgeon clinical practice variation and patient preferences during the informed consent discussion: a mixed-methods analysis in lumbar spine surgery. *Can J Surg* 2020.
DOI: 10.1503/cjs.005619

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Cool-Down/Wrap-up Questions

Supplemental Table 2: Semi-Structured Focus Group Guide – Preoperative patients

Background Information

General introduction to process – explain that one person only should speak at a time and do NOT identify themselves before speaking. Thank everyone for attending, go over consent form and have them verbally agree to participate, explain how confidentiality and anonymity will be protected at point of transcription, etc.

Warm-up and establishing rapport

Brief overview of the focus group study objective

Expectations of Pre-Surgery Consultation(s)

Please describe your experience at the initial consultation

- By whom was the information relating to your condition delivered?
- What information was given to you?
- How was this information communicated? (delivered versus discussion)
- Did he or she answer all your questions?
- Were you satisfied?

What was most important for you to know about your upcoming surgery?

What was most important for you to know about your recovery?

- Who provided you with information on your surgery?
- Who do you think *should* provide you with this information (i.e. who would you prefer)? Why?

After leaving the clinic how much of what was told to you do you remember?

- What would help you better remember health information?

Information Format, Timing, etc.

When would be the most appropriate time to discuss different aspects of your surgery and recovery with you?

What is your preference for obtaining health information? (Audio, Video, ect)

Cool-Down/Wrap-up Questions

Is there anything else I haven't asked you about that you'd like to add?

Supplemental Table 3: Semi-Structured Focus Group Guide – Postoperative Patients Group

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Background Information

General introduction to process – explain that one person only should speak at a time and do NOT identify themselves before speaking. Thank everyone for attending, go over consent form and have them verbally agree to participate, explain how confidentiality and anonymity will be protected at point of transcription, etc.

Warm-up and establishing rapport

Brief overview of the focus group study objective

Experiences of Pre-Surgery Consultation(s)

Please describe your experience at the initial consultation

- By whom was the information relating to your condition delivered?
- What information was given to you?
- How was this information communicated? (delivered versus discussion)
- Did he or she answer all your questions?
- Were you satisfied?

What was most important for you to know about your upcoming surgery?

What was most important for you to know about your recovery?

- Who do you think *should* provide you with this information (i.e. who would you prefer)? Why?

After leaving the clinic how much of what was told to you do you remember?

- What would help you better remember health information?

Information Needs at Different Points of Care

Looking back, what do you now know about going through this surgery that you wish you had known beforehand?

- What would you tell other patients about this surgery?
- Were there any surprises about the surgery or recovery?

What information should be provided to patients?

How were your information needs after the surgery provided?

Recommendations for Information for other patients

When would be the most appropriate time to discuss different aspects of your surgery and recovery with you?

What is your preference for obtaining health information? (Audio, Video, etc.)

Appendix 1 to Zahrai A, Bhanot K, Mei XY, et al. Surgeon clinical practice variation and patient preferences during the informed consent discussion: a mixed-methods analysis in lumbar spine surgery. *Can J Surg* 2020.
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Cool-Down/Wrap-up Questions

Is there anything else I haven't asked you about that you'd like to add?

Supplemental Table 4: Semi-Structured Focus Group Guide – Postoperative Patients Group 2

Background Information

General introduction to process – explain that one person only should speak at a time and do NOT identify themselves before speaking. Thank everyone for attending, go over consent form and have them verbally agree to participate, explain how confidentiality and anonymity will be protected at point of transcription, etc.

Warm-up and establishing rapport

Brief overview of the focus group study objective

Experiences of Pre-Surgery Consultation(s) and postoperative course

What was most important for you to know about your upcoming surgery?

-Other patients have stated that they were unsure of what questions to ask. This was due to lack of knowledge about the procedure and the medical terminology discussed with them. Did you have a similar experience?

Who had the most influence on your decision to have surgery?

-Other patients have suggested their family doctor had a major influence in their decision. Do you agree?

What was most important for you to know about your recovery?

-Other patients felt they were told very little about the postoperative course (e.g. limitations, return to activities, pain after surgery). Was sufficient information provided to you in this area?

How important is the role of the surgeon administrative assistant for obtaining information?

-Other patients felt more comfortable asking the assistants questions than the surgeons. Who would you prefer to give you information on your surgery and postoperative course?

What information were you given at your preoperative or preadmission appointment?

- Was the information consistent with what you had been told by your surgeon?
- Was the timing of this information appropriate? (e.g., too late)

Information Needs at Different Points of Care

Looking back, what do you now know about going through this surgery that you wish you had known beforehand?

- What would you tell other patients about this surgery?
- Were there any surprises about the surgery or recovery?

How were your information needs after the surgery provided?

- Was any feedback or information provided to your family doctor? Would this be useful?

Recommendations for Information for other patients

When would be the most appropriate time to be given a comprehensive information tool on your operation and postoperative journey?

-Other patients preferred to have it immediately at the initial consultation once they were deemed surgical candidates. Would you agree?

What is your preference for obtaining health information?

-Other groups have suggested a website or pamphlet with visual aids along with a FAQ.

Would this be a good idea?

-Patients have suggested an email blackboard to send and have your specific questions answered by qualified personnel. Would this be useful?

Cool-Down/Wrap-up Questions

Is there anything else I haven't asked you about that you'd like to add?