

1 **If the participant has a recent case of cellulitis that they can discuss:**

2 **Can you tell me about a case of cellulitis that you diagnosed?**

3 Prompts:

- 4 • What thoughts go through your head when you are considering a diagnosis of
5 cellulitis?
6 • What symptoms do you ask about? Local? General?
7 • What signs do you look for? Local? General?
8 • Are there any specific signs/symptoms you rely on to help?
9 • Did you do any tests?
10 • Did you seek advice from anyone else?
11 • Were you concerned that this may not be cellulitis?
12 • If you were concerned, why?
13 • Was there anything challenging about this case?
14 • How did you address these challenges?
15 • How confident were you that this was cellulitis on a 1-10 scale when you first saw
16 the patient?
17 • Did the patient discuss any self-diagnoses?
18 • Did any external factors such as time influence your decision?
19 • Did the patient come back to see you again?
20 • Would you change your approach if the same case presented again?
21 • Is this a typical case you see?
22 • What are the main differential diagnoses you see?
23

24 Repeat the above for a maximum two cases that the participants may have for the interview (repeat twice
25 only if the participant has no delayed/incorrect cases below).

26

27 **If the participant has a case where the diagnosis was delayed or incorrect (can be initially either
28 seen by same health care professional or a colleague, but preferably the same person)**

29 Prompts:

- 30 • Did you see the patient on initial presentation or was it a colleague?
31 • If it was another colleague, what specialty did they work in?
32 • What symptoms did they present with?
33 • What signs did they have?
34 • What was the initial diagnosis? And why?
35 • Were any tests done?
36 • Did any external factors influence the decision for the initial diagnosis?
37 • When did they see you or another colleague again?
38 • If it was another colleague, what specialty did they work in?
39 • Did anything change with the signs/symptoms?
40 • What happened next?
41 • Do you know what the final diagnosis was?
42 • What were the reasons for the delay in the diagnosis?
43 • Why was it difficult to make an accurate diagnosis on first consultation?

44 **We want to establish if it is possible to determine a core group of features that can be used to help
45 diagnose lower limb cellulitis**

46 Prompts:

- 47 • What symptoms are you asking about?

- 48
- 49
- 50
- 51
- 52
- 53
- 54
- 55
- 56
- 57
- 58
- 59
- 60
- 61
- 62
- 63
- 64
- 65
- 66
- 67
- 68
- 69
- 70
- Of these symptoms, which do you think are more suggestive of cellulitis?
 - Are there any symptoms that make cellulitis less likely?
 - Are there other features in the history which make cellulitis more/less likely? (prompt – other conditions, previous history, drugs, family history)
 - What signs are you looking for?
 - Of these signs, which do you think are more suggestive of cellulitis?
 - Would you request any tests if it was available to you on the same day?
 - If so what tests would these be?
 - Are there any signs in a ‘red leg’ that would make cellulitis less likely as the diagnosis?
 - Are there any signs in a red leg which would make cellulitis more likely as the diagnosis?
 - How has your approach to diagnosing cellulitis changed after managing previous cases?
 - If the patient has had previous cellulitis, does this influence your diagnosis?
 - From your experience, what differential diagnoses do you think about?
 - How do you distinguish cellulitis from these differential diagnoses?
 - Specifically, how do you differentiate cellulitis from lymphoedema?
 - Specifically, how do you differentiate cellulitis from venous eczema?
 - Specifically, how do you differentiate cellulitis from infected venous eczema?
 - Specifically, how do you differentiate cellulitis from lymphodermatosclerosis?
 - Do you feel that a list of key diagnostic features of cellulitis would help when assessing patients?

71

72 **We want your views on some aspects of diagnosis that patients with recurrent cellulitis and**
73 **lymphoedema have discussed**

- 74
- 75
- 76
- 77
- 78
- 79
- 80
- 81
- 82
- 83
- 84
- 85
- Patients felt that they were confident in making a self-diagnosis of cellulitis and valued greater trust in self-management at home with treatment. What are your thoughts on patients self-diagnosing?
 - Would a photograph with a proforma taken and filled in by the patient and sent to you be helpful in managing patients with recurrent cellulitis?
 - In the instance where you may not agree with the patients self-diagnosis of cellulitis, how would you manage the diagnosis?
 - Do you feel that any further training or resources should be set up to help improve our diagnosis of cellulitis? For example as specialist cellulitis clinic to refer patients to?
 - What are your thoughts on health care professionals having a guide such as checklist to help diagnosis?
 - Do you think patients should have this checklist? If so why or why not?

86