### Post-operative patient interviews

**NB** This guide is necessarily provisional, as its application will depend on the experience of individual participants.

#### Introduction

- Researcher explains research, asks if any queries on PIS, and takes consent.

#### Motivations to undergo surgery

- To start off, I was just wondering if you could tell me a bit about what factors led to your decision to go for surgery?

#### Expected outcomes of surgery

- If you can think back to a few weeks before you had the surgery, can you remember how you were feeling about having surgery?
  - **Probe:** Was there anything you were worried about? [Prompt on risks/side-effects of surgery]
  - **Probe:** Was there anything you hoped would change for the better by having the surgery?
  - **Probe:** Was there anything you were hoping to prevent by having surgery?

#### Actual outcomes of surgery

- How do you feel about having had surgery now?
  - **Probe:** Which operation did you have?
  - **Probe:** How long ago was it now?
  - **Probe:** What's happened since? [Prompt on the things they said they were worried about/hoped would change/hoped they would prevent by having surgery]
  - **Probe:** Was there anything that happened that you didn’t expect? [Prompt on during surgery and after surgery]
  - **Probe:** Are you glad you had the surgery?
  - **Probe:** Do you think having the operation has changed your relationships with people who are important to you?
  - To you, what are the most important results of surgery?
  - If they say weight loss, **Probe:** What does weight loss mean for you?
  - **Probe:** Are these things different to what you would have said before having surgery?
  - **Probe:** What results of surgery might be most important to other people undergoing the surgery?
  - If yes, **Probe:** How are they different?
  - Are there any things that you didn’t know beforehand that you wished you had?
  - What do you think will happen in the future?

#### Expectations of follow-up care

- If you can think back to a few weeks before you had the surgery, can you remember if you had any expectations or ideas about the care you would receive after surgery? [Prompt on short-term inpatient care and long-term care]

#### Actual experiences of follow-up care

- Since you've had your surgery, have you been back to the hospital? [Prompt on the surgical and weight management teams,]
  - **Probe:** What about your GP practice, have you seen anyone there since your surgery?
  - **Probe:** Do you think there is a role for more follow-up care from primary care?
  - What do you think will happen next?
  - How do you feel about the NHS care you have received since your surgery?
  - **Probe:** Tell me about the things you found most helpful
  - **Probe:** Tell me about the things you found least helpful
  - **Probe:** Is there anything you would have preferred to have been done differently?/Is there anything you think the NHS could have done to better support you since you’ve had your surgery?
  - Could you say what you thought the most important things of good care after weight loss surgery were?
  - **Probe:** Who would be the best person/people to do that?
  - **Probe:** What would be the best setting for this? [Prompt on hospital/another setting]
  - **Probe:** Do you think these are the same things that others who’ve had surgery would say?
  - What about support groups – have you been involved with any of these?
  - If yes **Probe:** Do you tend to go to meetings or do you use online forums?
  - **Probe:** How do you find these? [Prompt on positive and negative aspects]
  - If no **Probe:** What’s stopped you from getting involved? [ie. prompt on if unaware of them, none convenient, don’t find helpful]
  - If used to be involved but now no longer involved **Probe:** What’s led to this?
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clarifications, etc.</th>
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<tr>
<td>❖ Researcher asks participant to provide more information where points of interest were not previously probed.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Wind-down</th>
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<tr>
<td>❖ Researcher checks topic guide for omissions and prompts informant back towards areas of discussion where they seemed most comfortable.</td>
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<th>Case report form</th>
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<td>❖ Researcher records relevant socio-demographic and clinical details using the case report form.</td>
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<tr>
<td>❖ Researcher asks if patient would be interested in being contacted about a possible follow-up interview – to be recorded on consent form</td>
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<tr>
<td>❖ Researcher thanks interviewee for participating and asks if they would like a summary of the study results once complete</td>
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