Appendix A: Open-Ended Interview Guide

Part 1: Introductions

1. Introductions

Part 2: NMA Familiarity

To begin, we would like to understand your current knowledge of NMA:

2. How familiar are you with NMA?
3. Have you ever been part of an NMA project?
   a. If so, what was your role in the NMA project?
4. Have you ever read an NMA?

Part 3: Review of the table format

The table I am showing you summarizes the results of an NMA that assessed acute pain management treatment options.

Please think aloud as you interpret this table

Prompts regarding the legend:

5. Do you find the language within the legend to be understandable? If not, what is confusing?
6. Do you have any feedback regarding the format of the legend?
   i. Do you have feedback regarding the coloring used?
   ii. Do you have feedback regarding the language used?
   iii. Do you have feedback regarding the indication of the certainty of evidence component of the legend?

Prompts regarding the results table:

7. Now that you have reviewed the legend in more detail, does the legend accurately and completely summarize the results table?
   a. If not, what could be changed?
8. Please provide any feedback you have regarding the results within the table
   a. Are the results easily understandable? If not, what is confusing or could be changed?
9. Do you have any feedback regarding the format of the table?
   a. Do you have feedback regarding the coloring used?
   b. Do you have feedback regarding the language used?
   c. Do you have feedback regarding the outcome reporting within the table?
   d. Do you have feedback regarding the indication of the certainty of evidence component of the results?
10. Please provide any other feedback that you may have regarding the table

Part 4: Assessing Participant Interpretation

Based on the results within the table, please describe how you interpret the findings?

Prompts regarding interpretation:

11. Based on both the benefits and the harms, which treatment(s) do you consider to be the optimal choice(s)?
12. Which treatment(s) do you believe are the least optimal choices? What information is important for you in deciding this?
13. How confident are you in your interpretation?
   a. Why are you/aren’t you confident in your interpretation?
   b. What would aid in improving your interpretation?

Part 5: Closing Remarks

We would like to ask if you have any colleagues that may be interested in participating in this study. Following this interview, it would be great if we could connect with anyone who you believe may be able to provide valuable insights to this project.
## Appendix B: Example Legend When Active Treatment is Reference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENEFIT OUTCOMES</th>
<th>ADVERSE EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High/Moderate Certainty Evidence</td>
<td>High/Moderate Certainty Evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low/Very Low Certainty Evidence</td>
<td>Low/Very Low Certainty Evidence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### AMONG THE BEST
- Better than reference
- May be better than reference
- Less harmful than reference
- May be less harmful than reference

### INTERMEDIATE
- No better than reference
- May be no better than reference
- No more harmful than reference
- May be no more harmful than reference

### AMONG THE WORST
- Worse than reference
- May be worse than reference
- More harmful than reference
- May be more harmful than reference

## Appendix C: Example Legend When Placebo (Or Any Sham/Null Treatment Effect) is Reference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENEFIT OUTCOMES</th>
<th>ADVERSE EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High/Moderate Certainty Evidence</td>
<td>High/Moderate Certainty Evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low/Very Low Certainty Evidence</td>
<td>Low/Very Low Certainty Evidence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### AMONG THE BEST
- Better than placebo and some other interventions
- May be better than placebo and some alternatives
- No more harmful than placebo
- May be no more harmful than placebo

### INTERMEDIATE
- Better than placebo, but no better than any other interventions
- May be better than placebo, but no better than other interventions
- More harmful than placebo, but no worse than other interventions
- May be more harmful than placebo, but no worse than other interventions

### AMONG THE WORST
- No better than placebo
- May be no better than placebo
- More harmful than placebo and some other interventions
- May be more harmful than placebo and some alternatives