Qualitative question schedule patient participants, VALUE study

1. You indicated that you have considered using [add-on] as part of your fertility treatment. Can you talk me through your decision making about whether to use this/these add-on(s)?

Prompts:
   a. Who was involved in the decision?
   b. What were your thoughts on the potential benefits?
   c. What were your thoughts on the potential risks?
   d. What about cost? Did that feature?
   e. Any other factors you can think of?
   f. Did you know that the [add-ons] you used/thought about were optional, or are often optional?
   g. Can you tell me how your first came to consider using [add-on]
   h. What happened next?
   i. Can you tell me a bit more about that?

2. Can you tell me if you received or sought any information about [add-ons], and if so where you got the information from?

Prompts:
   a. Your fertility clinic website, information brochures?
   b. Your fertility doctor or another staff member (verbally)?
   c. Internet searches/blogs?
   d. What about family advice, or information from family?
   e. How about social media or internet advertising?
   f. Was the information helpful/useful/did it help with making the decision?

3. Reflecting on your experience, how do you feel about the decision to use (or not) use [insert name add-on] in your IVF treatment?

Prompts:
   a. Did you get pregnant that cycle?
   b. Would you recommend it to someone else?
   c. What advice would you give someone else considering this add-on?

4. Sometimes add-ons are available at fertility clinics before they have been thoroughly studied to check that they increase the chances of IVF being successful. What are your thoughts on this?

Prompts:
   a. Does whether they are proven to work or not make any difference to you?
   b. Do you think scientific evidence of benefit matters to patients?
   c. Is whether it costs patients money, and the amount, important?
   d. What if the add-on is used as routine or standard at specific clinics, for instance included in a treatment package?

5. Sometimes add-ons are available at fertility clinics before they have been thoroughly studied to check they are safe, for example whether they increase the risk of miscarriage, stillbirth, or poor outcomes for the baby. What are your thoughts on fertility clinics offering add-ons in these cases?

Prompts:
   a. Does whether they are proven to be safe make any difference to you?
   b. Do you think scientific evidence of safety matters to patients?

6. Now I’d like you to pretend for a moment that you are considering using a brand-new add-on in your IVF cycle that has not yet been scientifically proven as effective and safe.

I will show you a slide and would like it if you could let me know which of these you agree with? Perhaps you could talk me through your thoughts?
Slide:
1. OK if it is free to use
2. OK if it is low risk
3. OK if the doctor has a hunch that it might be effective
4. OK if the doctor wants to offer some hope
5. OK if the doctor has used it before and a patient got pregnant
6. OK if the patient wants to use it
7. OK if it’s being studied as part of a research project

7. If you were given an information leaflet about an IVF add-on, what sort of information would you want it to include?

Prompts:
1. How about risks and benefits?
2. Would it work and how long it’s been around for matter to you?
3. Would you be interested in success rates? Cost?

8. What do you think about using the term ‘add-on’?

Prompts:
1. Do you have any alternate suggestions for terms?
2. Is it a good description?
3. What do you think about the terms ‘adjuvant’ or ‘adjunct’ instead?

9. Is there anything else I haven’t asked you about add-ons, that you’d like to share or talk about?

**Qualitative question schedule professional participants, VALUE study**

1. Can you tell me how you would define an add-on? For example, what components would you include in a definition?

Prompts:
1. Evidence of effectiveness, evidence of safety, costs, being optional?
2. What things do you think definitely aren’t add-ons?
3. What things do you think definitely are add-ons?

2. What do you think about using the term ‘add-on’?

Prompts:
1. Do you have any alternate suggestions for terms?
2. Is it a good description?
3. What do you think about the terms ‘adjuvant’ or ‘adjunct’ instead?

3. Please can you tell me about your experience of offering or using add-ons recently, say in the last couple of years?

Prompts:
1. Can you give some examples of add-ons you talk about with your patients (or colleagues if embryologist)?
2. Can you recall a particular case in which you did this?
3. Can you tell me a bit more about that?
4. Have you any other thoughts on that topic?
5. If patient drivers: How do you weigh up patient autonomy versus your duty to beneficence and non-maleficence when you know there is no clinical benefit?
6. Who makes the decisions regarding laboratory-based add-ons? How does this make you feel?

4. What advantages or benefits do you think add-ons provide to patients?
Prompts:

1. Can you give some examples of add-ons you think offer advantages to patients?
2. Can you think of some instances where you might recommend or suggest an add-on to your patient?
3. What advantages or benefits do you think add-ons provide to clinicians or the clinic?

5. What disadvantages or risks do you think add-ons pose to patients?

Prompts:

1. Can you give some examples of add-ons you think are particularly risky?
2. Can you recall any particular instances where adverse events arose as a result of using an add-on?
3. Can you think of some instances where you might advise a patient against using an add-on?
4. Can you think of any disadvantages that add-ons pose to clinicians or the clinic?

6. Where do you seek information on add-ons from?

Prompts:

1. What about where you seek information on a technique or how to use/perform the add-on (such as the dose, timing of procedure etc.)?
2. What about information on evidence such as safety and effectiveness?

7. What kind of information do you or your clinic aim to give patients regarding add-ons?

Prompts:

1. Do you ever direct them to any resources?
2. Do you ever provide written information?
3. Can you tell me a bit more about that?