

## Interview Discussion Guide

For participants who have received Intrabeam IORT

### 1. Introduction (5 mins)

- Introduction to the semi-structured interview, review of participant information sheet and consent form, clarify purpose of interview.

### 2. Getting to know the participant (10 mins)

**This activity is experience based so first of all we are going to ask a little about your home life, who lives with you, your routine an average week to allow us to understand the richness of your life and your experiences, so we can accurately summarise key themes and grouping and reflecting your thoughts accurately.**

To get us started, please can you tell me a little more about yourself and your home life? Perhaps, start with where you live, your family and who is at home, your friends.

Now let's talk a bit about what life was like for you before diagnosis/treatment. What were your hobbies, what did you like to do? Talk me through an average week in your life before diagnosis/treatment.

### 3. Breast cancer background (10mins)

I'd like to understand a bit more about your breast cancer diagnosis if that's OK.

Can you walk me through how you received your diagnosis? And remember, if at any time you feel uncomfortable and wish to stop the interview, you are free to do so.

What treatment did you receive? And did you think at that point that you had a good understanding what was going to happen?

### 4. Radiotherapy + surgery experience (40 mins)

#### Before radiotherapy + surgery

If it's okay, for the rest of the conversation today we'll be discussing your experiences of receiving radiotherapy.

When did you first hear that radiotherapy may be part of your cancer treatment? How did you find out? And what information was shared with you at the time?

How did you feel about IORT? Did you have a good understanding about what was going to happen next and how were you feeling?

How did you prepare for IORT and surgery?

In hindsight is there anything you would have done differently in preparation for receiving radiotherapy and surgery?

### **Receiving radiotherapy + surgery**

Now I'd like you to think back to the day you had your surgery to remove the lump and receive the radiotherapy. Can you talk me through that day?

Did you experience any difficulties you consider were related to the surgery and/or IORT?

How do you feel those difficulties could be avoided or overcome?

### **After radiotherapy + surgery**

Finally, I'd like to understand more about what you experienced immediately after the IORT and surgery and also in the days and weeks that followed.

How did you feel after the surgery as you came out of anaesthesia?

Have you experienced adverse physical or mental symptoms you would attribute to the surgery and/or IORT?

Did you experience any difficulties or side effects immediately following the procedure – during your time in hospital?

Did you have any difficulties or consequences in the days and weeks that followed the procedure?

How long did it take you to get back to your normal level of activity? Or have you not got back to previous levels – if not, where are you now compared to before?

### **Final reflections looking back on the experience**

Looking back now on the experience of receiving this radiotherapy, what would you say worked particularly well?

What were the main challenges you faced that may have caused frustration, difficulties, or discomfort?

How do you think the service can be improved for future patients receiving this radiotherapy?

### **5. Thank you and close (5 mins)**