

INTERVIEW AND FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Interview questions for health care professionals

The interview provides a brief overview of the project as well as the informed consent sheet. Participants are asked if they have any questions, if they agree to the audio recording of the interviewer and then are asked to sign the informed consent sheet which is collected before the interview starts.

Warm up question: General attitudes

Interview question 1: ***What kind of experience has your community had with cancer and cancer screening?***

Probes: Is cancer a concern in your community? Is cancer an issue that people talk about openly? What about cancer screening? Do you feel cancer screening is important? How about cervical cancer in particular?

Specific questions: Attitudes, Access, Knowledge

Interview question 2: ***In your view what are the most important issues related to cervical cancer screening in your community?***

Probes: Are community members aware of the need? Is screening accessible locally? Are Well Women exams provided locally? Is there a system to remind clients when they are due for screen test? What has the community response been over time?

Interview question 3: ***How are health professionals currently able to address cervical cancer prevention?***

Probes: How do most women access screening? Who offers it? Are there enough health human resources? What about follow-up? How are test results reported to clients? Are there Gardasil vaccination programs in the community (or elsewhere)? What do you know about Gardasil? Do you think is an appropriate prevention approach in your First Nations community? Do you think it is safe? Is there sexual health education in the community – what approach would work/works best?

Interview question 4: ***How much is known about risk factors for cervical cancer?***

Probes: How much do you know about the connection between human papillomavirus (HPV) and cancer? Where did you acquire the information about HPV? What harm can HPV cause? What do you think is the best way to avoid HPV infections? Are there aspects you would like to learn more about like other risk factors such as smoking? Other?

Cultural angle on Attitudes, Access, Knowledge, Behaviours

Interview question 5: ***Do you think the needs of Aboriginal people in your community differ from non-Aboriginal communities with respect to cervical cancer screening?***

Probes: Are community members experiencing barriers to screening? Are there attitudes and behaviours that community members see as risk for cervical cancer? Are screening services

culturally appropriate for your clients (why or why not?) Do clients have difficulties with screening? (If so what do you think are the issues?) What are important cultural and community considerations when planning cervical cancer screening? What are their specific needs?

Attitudes, Access, Knowledge, Behaviours

Interview question 6: ***Overall, what are the most important barriers for cervical cancer screening in your community?***

Probes: Do you think that women know how to prevent cervical cancer? Are they concerned about it? Do you think there is a stigma related to STDs? What are the attitudes towards screening and cancer: e.g. behavior risk factors, self-care, cultural and multi-generational issues? Do women have access to screening services? How do you feel about vaccination programs? Other?

Interview question 7: ***Do you have any concerns about self-sampling with regard to relationship clients and health professionals?***

Probes: Do you think self-sampling might interfere with the formation of a relationship between clients and health professionals? What are some reasons, other than cervical cancer screening why women in this community seek a pelvic exam? (E.g. do women present with inter-menstrual bleeding or post-menopausal bleeding?) Do you think it might increase or decrease education opportunities for screening and treatment of cervical cancer?

Interview question 8: (to inform Knowledge Translation): ***How do you reach and motivate eligible women for cervical cancer screening in your community?***

Interview question 9: (to inform Knowledge Translation): ***What do you think would help to increase the rate of cervical cancer screening? What kind of information/research would be helpful for your community?***

Probes: Cervical cancer rates? Causes of cervical cancer? Information related to cancer screening? Access? Culturally safe services?

Do you have any other comments?

2. Focus group questions for female community members

The moderator welcomes the group and opens the meeting as appropriate at the local setting.

The moderator leads introductions of participants and researchers. The moderator provides a brief overview of the project and reads informed consent form. Participants are asked to sign the informed consent form and collects letters before the group starts. The moderator reminds the group that the session will be recorded.

Moderator then makes a confidentiality statement about the focus groups:

“Anything that you say or do in this focus group will not be attributed to you personally. However, it might be attributable to this group. Anything that we find out about you that could identify you will be not be published or told anyone else, unless we get your permission. Your privacy will be respected. We will ask the other members of the focus groups to keep what you say confidential, but we cannot guarantee that they will do so.

We will record this session so that we can accurately transcribe what you say. The information obtained will be kept in a locked filing cabinet and only be available to the investigators.

Do you have any questions or concerns before we start?”

Once all questions are answered the moderator starts with the warm up question.

Focus group warm up question: General Attitudes, Access, Knowledge, Behaviours

Focus groups question 1: *What kind of experience has your community had with cancer screening?*

Probes: Is cancer a concern in your community? Is cancer an issue that people talk about openly? What about cancer screening? Do you feel cancer screening is important? How about cervical cancer screening in particular? Where do you get information about the prevention of cervical cancer? Where would you like to get this information? What is a good way to teach community members about sexual health in your community? What about women who develop cervical cancer/are HPV-infected?

Attitudes, Access, Knowledge, Behaviours

Focus group question 2: *Do you think it is important to prevent cervical cancer?*

Probes: What in general do you think causes cancer? What about cervical cancer? What about HPV and cervical cancer? What puts people at risk for cervical cancer? What risks do you think are most common in your community? What helps to protect people from cervical cancer? What are some methods to screen for cervical cancer? Have you heard of Pap test, HPV tests and colposcopy? Which screening methods are commonly used by community members?

TEACHING SESSION ON CERVICAL SCREENING and PREVENTION

We now engage in a teaching session on vaccinations, Pap, HPV, and colposcopy. Once everyone is at a similar level of knowledge we follow this line of questioning:

Attitudes, Behaviours

Focus group question 3: **(Given what you just learned) What do you think is the best approach to cervical cancer prevention in your community?**

Probes: What are some of the pros and cons specifically for Pap smears? For HPV testing? Which do you think will be more acceptable to community members? What other health care

support is needed in the community to increase screening, e.g. education, human resources, health services. What are some of the barriers for the screening option in your community? How to reach and motivate women to get cervical cancer screening? What do you think about the HPV vaccination option?

Cultural angle on Attitudes, Access, Knowledge, Behaviours

Focus group question 4: ***Do you think the needs of Aboriginal people in your community differ from in non-Aboriginal communities with respect to cervical cancer screening?***

Probes: What are First Nations community members specific service needs? Do women have difficulties with screening – please explain? Are First Nations women at risk for not accessing screening? Are First Nations women at higher risk for cervical cancer than mainstream Canadians? Are services culturally appropriate for women? (why or why not?) What are important cultural and community considerations when planning cervical screening?

Focus group question 5: ***How do you feel about pelvic exams?***

Probes: Would/Do you skip cervical cancer screening because it involves a pelvic exam? Do you know of women in your community who do? Do you feel comfortable seeing a health professional for a pelvic examination or other gynaecological issues? How do you feel about self-sampling? What are some reasons, other than cervical cancer screening that would lead you to seek a pelvic exam? (E.g. would you seek a health professional's advice for inter-menstrual or post-menopausal bleeding?)

Focus group question 6: ***How important is the relationship with your health care provider?***

Probes: Do you discuss cervical screening and follow-up with your health care provider? What has your health care provider taught you about cervical cancer and the screening for it? Would self-sampling interfere with your relationship to your health care provider? Do you think it might increase or decrease education opportunities for screening and treatment of cervical cancer?

Focus group question 7: ***Behaviour related to Aboriginal issues***

Probes: What are FN community members specific service needs? Do you think some women have difficulties with screening – please explain? Are FN women at risk for not accessing screening (why or why not?) Are services culturally appropriate for women? (why or why not?) What are important cultural and community considerations when planning cervical cancer screening?

Do you have any other comments?