

## Qualitative Evaluation of the National Early Warning Score (NEWS)- Interview Topic guide

### Part A. Introduction, consent and background

- Thanks, introduce self, re-state purpose of the interview (to understand the use of NEWS in pre hospital settings)
- Discussion of how interview will be recorded, right to withdrawal, issues of confidentiality, anonymisation and informed consent. (*face-to-face written consent, telephone verbal consent*).  
Verbal consent: *switch audio recorder on – go through each point on written consent form.*

### Part B: The use of NEWS in pre-hospital settings

- Can you tell us about your professional background and about the role in which you have encountered NEWS?
- Can you tell us about your experience of working with NEWS
  - How long have you / your organisation been using the scoring system?
  - In your organisation → Who uses it? (measures, communicates, responds)
  - How do you find using it → easy/difficult
  - Could you give some examples of how it is used in your organisation?
- There are 6 different clinical parameters, how do you find each of these to score?
  - **For Reference (no need to go through all of these one by one)** i) respiratory rate ii) oxygen saturations iii) temperature iv) systolic blood pressure v) pulse rate vi) level of consciousness.
  - Are all the parameters appropriate in your setting?
  - Do you calculate a score? How do you use the score → are there defined responses / protocols in your organisation linked to the score?
  - Do you think that the scores and the indicated actions work/are appropriate?
  - Have the scoring levels and resulting actions caused any problems?
- How did you previously assess the severity of a patient's illness?
  - How did the NEWS tool integrate with established routines/practices in your organisation?
- How is NEWS used in your organisation
  - At 'handover of care' points?
  - As a tool to monitor clinical status in the day to day care of a patient?
  - As a tool in referral → has it changed the way you / your organisation make referrals?
- Does the tool work effectively in your organisation? is it suited to your organisation?
  - How was the tool introduced?
  - Has the tool been adapted in any way to suit your particular organisation?
- What format is NEWS used - electronic or paper?
  - Is there a choice?
  - Which format would you prefer?
  - How does the format integrate with the clinical records systems that you use?
- How do other health care professionals that you work with get on with NEWS (within your organisation and / or with other organisations)?
- Have you had positive or negative experiences using the tool? Could you give examples of either of these?
- Can you think of ways in which the tool could be improved?

- Can you think of ways in which the tool could be used more effectively in your organisation and/or in other health care organisations?
- Would you like to see the tool used more widely?

**Part C: Winding up**

- Can you think of anyone else who it would be useful for us to talk to?
- Thanks for participating. I have covered my questions, is there anything that you would like to add?