

Focus group topic guides

Summary Topic Guide for Focus Group Discussions with young people and parent participants

All focus groups will begin with a reminder of the aims of the study, verbal confirmation of consent, the restating of the right to withdraw from the study up to two weeks following the focus group discussion and the opportunity for participants to ask any outstanding questions.

Introductory questions

1. What do you understand about febrile neutropenia?
 - Do you know anything about how to decide if someone has low risk or high risk febrile neutropenia?
2. Have you ever had an episode of febrile neutropenia? Can you tell me about it/them?
 - What is the treatment like in your hospital?
 - What were the best things about the episode of treatment? What were the worst? Why?

Explanation of current research and different possible treatment strategies.

3. What do you think about these different options? If they were all offered at your hospital, which would you pick and why?

It would be good to talk more about outpatient treatment of febrile neutropenia.

4. Tell me more about what you think of this option. Would you want it for you/your child?
5. Can you tell me a bit about how you decided if you would or wouldn't? What factors played a part in your decision making? How important was each factor?
 - If not mentioned, ask about: practical issues (eg transport, distance from hospital, finances, care of other children), emotional/social issues (eg. wanting to be together as a family, fear of going home, feeling of not being able to cope at home), trust in health care professionals
6. How would what your family/child feel influence your decision? What do you think they would say about outpatient care? If disagreements occurred, how should these be negotiated?
7. How would what your doctor/nurse feel influence your decision? What do you think they would say about outpatient care? If disagreements occurred, how should these be negotiated?

Introduce evidence about failure to consent rates.

8. Why do you think this might be?
9. Do you want to say more about the questions we just discussed in the light of this research?

Service design

10. How do you think an outpatient febrile neutropenia service could be designed to make you most happy with it?

- If not mentioned discuss: when go home, route of antibiotics, how followed up (home/clinic), what symptoms would be tolerated at home (eg repeated fever)

Any other issues/questions/comments?

All medical queries raised by the participants during the focus group discussions will be redirected to their clinical care team. Debriefing will be offered to participants immediately after the focus group discussions and a telephone number will also be provided in case they wish to discuss any further issues with the research.

Summary Topic Guide for Focus Group Discussions with health care professionals

All focus groups will begin with a reminder of the aims of the study, verbal confirmation of consent, the restating of the right to withdraw from the study up to two weeks following the focus group discussion and the opportunity for participants to ask any outstanding questions. Participants in the focus groups for healthcare professionals will be reminded that the research team are only interested in their general views and will not be discussing the details of individual cases.

Introductory questions

1. What is your role in looking after children with low risk febrile neutropenia?
2. Tell me about the treatment of low risk febrile neutropenia in your hospital?
3. What sort of issues develop when caring for patients with low risk febrile neutropenia?

Explanation of current research and different possible treatment strategies.

4. What do you think about these different options? Which one(s) do you think it is appropriate to offer to your patients?

It would be good to talk more about outpatient treatment of febrile neutropenia.

5. Tell me more about what you think of this option. Would you want it for your patients?
6. Can you tell me a bit about how you decided if you would or wouldn't? What factors played a part in your decision making? How important was each factor?
 - If not mentioned, ask about: practical issues (eg transport, distance from hospital, finances, care of other children), emotional/social issues (eg. wanting to be together as a family, fear of going home, feeling of not being able to cope at home), trust in health care professionals
7. How would what the family/child feel influence your decision? What do you think they would say about outpatient care? If disagreements occurred, how should these be negotiated?

Introduce evidence about failure to consent rates.

8. Why do you think this might be?
9. Do you want to say more about the questions we just discussed in the light of this research?

Service design

10. How do you think an outpatient febrile neutropenia service could be designed to make you most happy with it?
 - If not mentioned discuss: when go home, route of antibiotics, how followed up (home/clinic), what symptoms would be tolerated at home (eg repeated fever)
11. How does the design of the healthcare service as a whole influence how services could be delivered?
12. Who makes decisions about these kinds of changes? What do you think they would think/say?

Any other issues/questions/comments?

Debriefing will be offered to participants immediately after the focus group discussions and a telephone number will also be provided in case they wish to discuss any further issues with the research.