

1 **Guide for Conducting a Semi-Structured Interview with Oral Health Professionals (OHP)**

2 [The purpose of this interview is to map the organisational characteristics of the dental practice and the
3 perspective of the dentist on tobacco cessation in Ahmedabad to understand possible health service
4 interventions to improve tobacco control from dentists' perspective along with factors that may facilitate
5 or hinder the same.]

6 **1. Introduction**

7 Greet the doctor and thank him/her for attending the appointment for the interview.

8 Introduce yourself (interviewer) and the Government Dental College and Hospital, if the interviewee is
9 not already familiar with you.

10 Provide the interviewee with the leaflet on the study design and briefly explain the study.

11 Explain about confidentiality and the use of the study outcomes.

12 Introduce the consent form. Ask for consent to record the audio and take notes.

13 **2. Interview**

14 Start by asking some general questions that the interviewee would be comfortable to answer....

15 *So, sir/madam, tell me something about your practice ... how long have you been practicing/working here? (In case
16 of long practice) How different was this area when you started practicing here?*

17 Collect the basic demographic data of the participant (name, gender, age, religion and, caste).

18 *How many patients, who are also tobacco users, do you see in a month or in a week? Tell me about their general
19 profile (e.g. age, education, economic background, occupation).*

1 Depending on the issue being discussed, a shift can be made to any relevant inquiry theme below. Ensure
2 that all the themes are covered in the interview. Any new theme/concept brought in by the interviewee
3 shall be accommodated and be probed if deemed relevant.

4 **Information System**

5 *Please describe the kind of data/information you collect regarding tobacco use. How do you do this?*
6 (what kind of data: chewable or smoking tobacco, frequency, family history. How data remains with
7 dentist/patient/both, on the case paper/diary/register/computer-based system. If you are in doubt, request
8 him/her to show a relevant paper/register.)

9 *How has been your experience with this system? What kind of challenges do you face?*

10 *How does this data help you? (If no data is collected) Do you see any use of collecting data/information about*
11 *tobacco use in your patients?*

12 (For what use: monitor treatment outcomes, shape ongoing practice, enhance person-centered care, or
13 enable reminder services for patient follow-ups.)

14 **Health Workforce**

15 *Please explain the type of your practice (Individual/team), who works in this clinic/hospital with their*
16 *qualification/training, roles, and responsibilities. (Ask details on doctors' qualifications, year of graduation,*
17 *experience, etc.).*

18 *When a patient visits your clinic or hospital, what is the sequence of the procedure and is done by whom? (Inquire*
19 *about who does the registration, history taking, examination, treatment procedure and post-treatment*
20 *advice.)*

1 *How do you update your knowledge/skill regarding all the aspects of your practice? (Probe specifically about*
2 *tobacco-related knowledge.)*

3 *What in your opinion will be the effect on practice, if the OHP or their team members have undergone specific*
4 *training on tobacco control? (Ask if the OHP or their team members have undergone any specific training*
5 *on tobacco control. If yes, try to get the details.)*

6 *How effective can the use of guidelines for tobacco cessation be? (Ask if the OHP is aware of or following any*
7 *guidelines for tobacco cessation.)*

8 *What do you think will be the effect on tobacco cessation practice if an OHP or any of their team members is a*
9 *tobacco user? (Ask if he or any of his team members uses tobacco. If no, what is the effect of being a non-*
10 *tobacco user role model?)*

11 *Are you aware of any tobacco dependence treatment specialist in your city? (If yes, try to bring out details.)*

12 **Service Delivery**

13 *In your work experience to date, how many patients have come to you primarily for tobacco de-addiction? When you*
14 *treat a general patient who is using tobacco, do you point out (identify) their tobacco use habit? (Ask if they talk*
15 *about its ill effects and the advantages of quitting? If yes, how much time do they spend doing this and*
16 *try to bring out the facilitators? If no, what are the barriers?)*

17 *Do you have any material in your set-up regarding tobacco control or de-addiction? (Models, posters,*
18 *documentary, self- help materials, etc.)*

19 *How do you proceed if a patient demands a tobacco de-addiction service or wants to quit because of your advice?*
20 *(Counselling, support material, medication, referring to the specialist)*

21 *What do you do for the patients who are tobacco users and not ready to quit? (Probe further for future advice.)*

1 *Do you think a team approach, where different roles and responsibilities are allotted to the team members, can help*
2 *to promote tobacco control in your set-up? (Ask if the barriers can be overcome in this way.)*

3 **Governance and Leadership**

4 *Please describe all the regulatory requirements that you need to meet in order to practice. (Practice license from*
5 *municipal health department, registration with respective education council, certification from pollution*
6 *control board). What are your views about these regulations? Do providers take them seriously?*

7 *OHP can play an important role in tobacco cessation of their patients! Do you agree with this statement? Why?*

8 *Does the government recognise your role in TC? Does it provide any support to you for this? (Any guidelines,*
9 *protocols, incentives, etc.)*

10 *Can incentives be a motivation to do more cessation work? Please elaborate. What do you think will be the impact of*
11 *making all the oral health care facilities tobacco free? (Smoke-free should be made tobacco free.) Can you tell me*
12 *about any rules or guidelines (if any) that your staff has to follow in regards to tobacco control?*

13 *What else in your opinion can the government do to curb the widespread use of tobacco products?*

14 **Medical Products and Technologies**

15 *Are you aware of any medications for tobacco cessation? (Ask about NRTs, non-NRTs and its availability.) If*
16 *yes, then how did you come to know about it? If no, do you think knowledge regarding these medications can help*
17 *you provide TC service better?*

18 *Do you think items such as a TC guide, protocol, toolkit, posters, brochures, self-help materials, risk charts and*
19 *motivational tools can help in providing TC services?*

20 **Financing**

1 *How will it help the patients and providers if the cost of tobacco dependence treatment is covered in health*

2 *insurance?*

3 *What do you think about taxes levied on tobacco products?*

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