

Final Questioning route (amended after 3 interviews)
Focus group
Baseline stage

Opening Question

1. Tell us who you are and tell us how long you have been working in this ICU?

Introductory Questions

2. Can you describe your unit including patient case mix, staffing levels, workload etc?
3. What changes in your sedation practice have you noticed in the last few years?
4. Can you describe your sedation practice now?
5. What are the main issues that are important to you when you manage a sedated patient in ICU?
6. What is the role of sedation hold? What does it mean for you?

Transition Questions

7. Can you describe what optimal sedation is like?
 - 7a. Do you think it is achieved in your unit?
If yes, how?
If no, why not?
8. Can you describe what sub-optimal sedation is like?
 - 8a. Is that a frequent phenomenon in your unit? (Can you give some examples?)
If yes, why?
If no, how do you manage to reduce the incidence of sub-optimum sedation?

Scenarios

- A. Think of an example of an agitated patient that you care for.
- B. Think of an example of an over-sedated patient that you cared for.
9. What were your main concerns?
10. What made difficult to manage the sedation of that patient?
11. What did you do?

Then think:

Supplementary material – Questioning route

12. What are the common characteristics among these patients in relation to their sedation management?
13. What are the most important differences in relation to their sedation management?

(Set the stage for productive key questions)

Key Questions

14. In your opinion, what barriers do you think prevent you from achieving optimal sedation?
15. What do you think you need to change to improve your sedation practice?
16. Are there any gaps in our education in relation to sedation practice?
17. What would an education package involve?
 - What form would you like it to have?
 - Who should it be addressed to?
 - What are your expectations of an education package?

Ending Questions

18. Of all the needs we discussed, which one is most important to you?
19. How would you summarise our discussion?