

## **Appendix A: Topic guide of the semi-structured questionnaire with the proxy**

### **Overarching questions**

Q: What was the impact of the trauma on the patient?

Q: What was the impact of the trauma on you, as a proxy?

Q: How was the communication with the treating physician (scale 0-10, 0 = very poor and 10 = outstanding)?

Q: Did you feel the decision for nonoperative management was 'shared decision-making'?

Q: Were you (the proxy) present/involved in the doctor-patient meetings

Q: What kind of doctor led the doctor-patient meetings?

### **In-depth questions**

#### *Health status*

Q: Please describe the palliative, non-surgical trajectory in terms of pain?

Q: How was the analgesia arranged?

Q: Did you feel that the patient was in pain?

Q: Do you think the patient was comfortable?

Q: How was the patients appetite?

Q: How was the patients night's sleep?

#### *Health Related Quality Of Life*

Q: Please describe the palliative, non-surgical trajectory in terms of mental health/sanity?

Q: Has the patient experienced delirium during the palliative trajectory?

Q: How was the patients consciousness during the palliative trajectory?

Q: What do you think was the most important to the patient during the palliative, non-surgical trajectory?

Q: Do you think that the patient would choose the palliative, non-surgical management again if he/she would have to make the decision a second time?

Q: How was the communication between the patient and their loved ones?

### **Concluding questions**

Q: Has the palliative care option ever been discussed with the patient, prior to the event?

Q: Were there any post-traumatic complications during the palliative, non-surgical trajectory?

Q: What is the cause of death of the patient?

Q: Did the dying occur in an acceptable manner according to you?

Q: Was the patient comfortable during the death?

Q: Is there anything you would like to add?