

## Qualitative Semi-Structured Interview Guide for Focused Group Discussion

	Section 1: Exploring Perceptions	Probes
1.1	What do you think characterizes effective physician-patient communication?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can you comment on the relevance of communication skills in medical training?</li> </ul>
1.2	How would you comment on your ability to effectively communicate with patients and their families?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do you find it difficult to explain to the patient or their family their diagnosis/disease prognosis/treatment?</li> <li>- How confident do you feel in disseminating medical knowledge to patients and their families?</li> <li>- What communication strategies do you use to ensure patient compliance?</li> <li>- Do you feel adequately prepared to have difficult conversations with patients and their attendants?</li> </ul>
1.3	On average, how would you comment on or evaluate your colleagues' communication skills?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Could you identify specific shortcomings in the communication skills of your colleagues?</li> </ul>
1.4	How important is rapport building between physicians and their patients?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are you able to develop rapport with your patients?</li> </ul>
1.5	Do you think your body language plays a role in how your patients perceive you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (e.g. posture, eye contact)</li> </ul>

1.6	Have you ever had preconceived ideas about certain types of patients leading you to behave with them differently?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (Based on the patient's gender, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, education etc.)</li> <li>- Do customs and traditions of different cultures play a role in informing a patient's decisions regarding health and disease management (patient adherence) and their understanding of disease and its causes?</li> <li>- What impact does the patient's family have on the patient's decision making regarding health and treatment?</li> </ul>
<b>Section 2: Difficulties in Communication</b>		
2.1	Have you ever felt that a lack of communication skills was a barrier in patient care?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would you like to provide an anecdotal example?</li> <li>- Are patients able to understand your prescribed disease management strategies?</li> <li>- Do they adhere to preventive measures and medications that you prescribe to them? If not, how do you deal with that?</li> <li>- What is the level of trust patients have in your prescribed disease management strategy?</li> </ul>

2.2	What kind of patients and attendants do you find it particularly challenging to deal with and why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most difficult interaction you have had?</li> <li>- Have you faced problems with controlling your temperament during such interactions?</li> </ul>
2.3	Has language ever been a barrier in communicating effectively with patients and their families?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficulty in explaining medical terminologies to patients?</li> <li>- Difficulty in comprehending the symptoms reported by a patient (owing to a different language)?</li> </ul>
<b>Section 3: Existing Training</b>		
3.1	Have you received formal/informal communication skills training during your residency?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If so, do you think the current training provided to you has been adequate in helping you communicate effectively with patients and their families?</li> <li>- Were you taught Urdu/other local language/layman translations of medical terminologies to help you deal with patients who do not understand English?</li> <li>- Are there any specific areas where you felt like you lacked instruction?</li> <li>- Would you want to receive further communication skills training?</li> </ul>
<b>Section 4: Recommendations</b>		

4.1	Do you think a formal curriculum would help individuals improve their communication skills?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Which areas would you like the curriculum to specifically focus on?</li><li>- Which pedagogy would you prefer/deem appropriate for the curriculum?</li><li>- Lectures</li><li>- Simulation (Role Plays)</li><li>-</li></ul>
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