

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA 1



EXPLORING THE DECISION-MAKING OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IN PRESCRIBING ANTICIPATORY MEDICATIONS (“JUST IN CASE DRUGS”) IN END OF LIFE CARE

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Note: questions will be continually reshaped by emerging data from previous interviews.

Introduction:

- Introduce yourself
- Discuss the purpose of the study (this research is being done to explore the views and experiences of General Practitioners in prescribing anticipatory medication for people at the end of their lives)
- Make the participants feel comfortable!
- Clarify that there are no right or wrong answers.
- Have the right to stop or withdraw at any time.
- Please ask for explanations of any questions whenever you want.
- Interviews will be recorded with their permission.

Explain that there are 3 broad themes interview is going to cover:

1. Decision-making processes around prescribing and using anticipatory medications.
2. Conversations with patients and their families around prescribing and use of anticipatory medications.
3. Your experience of working with other members of the primary care team in the prescribing and use of anticipatory medications.

Semi-structured interview questions

Prompt: turn recorders on

1. **Can you start by telling me a little about how long you have been a GP?**

2. Could you tell me a bit about your role in looking after terminally ill people?

Prompts: What kind of conditions do these people have?

Move on to themes going to cover: Thank you, that is really useful to understand. I would now like to ask about your experiences in prescribing and using anticipatory medications / “just in case drugs”.

3. Could you tell me about a recent experience of prescribing and use of anticipatory medications / just in case drugs?

Prompts: If not offered, ask for an example

What was the conversation with the patient / family?

Who prescribed the drugs?

Did interviewee feel having the drugs in home helped / will help?

4. What is it that makes you think it is an appropriate time to prescribe anticipatory medications?

Prompt: is there an inappropriate time?

5. What are your experiences of conversations with patients and their families around prescribing the drugs?

Prompts: Do all patients and families agree that it is the right “time”?

Are there barriers to conversations?

When does it go well? Can the conversation be beneficial?

What happens when people don’t agree with each other or the practitioner?

6. Can you tell me about how anticipatory prescribing works with your colleagues in community nursing and the wider primary care team?

*Prompt: How does it work with your community nurse / pharmacy colleagues?
Does access to community nurses impact on anticipatory medication practice?*

Do the nurses inform you when drugs are started?

- 7. Do you experience barriers in prescribing drugs ahead of need?**

- 8. Do you find anything works particularly well in prescribing drugs ahead of need?**

- 9. I think that's everything I wanted to talk about, do you have anything else you would like to say or final thoughts that I have not asked you?**

Closing the interview

Thank them for their participation and turn recorder off.

Reiterate that some issues can be challenging. Remind them if needed they should talk to a trusted colleague, their GP or Dr Liz Mather, a GP who is independent from the study.

Ask if they would like a copy of the results emailed when they are published – confirm email address.

After the interview

Record field-notes: observations, feelings, thoughts, reactions about the interview