

Data supplement

Interview Schedule (Semi-Structured)

Introduction

Researcher introduces self:

My name is xxx.

Today I am here as part of a study group looking at the new Mental Health Act 2007 and to understand the role of section 12(2) approved doctors using the Act.

Reminder of what the study is about:

You may recall I recently sent you an information sheet of what the study is about. The study is to look at the treatability criterion in the new Mental Health Act (2007) and also to understand your own experience of using the new act.

Obtaining consent:

Before we start would you mind signing a consent form which states you have agreed to participate in the study?

(Offer consent form for signature)

State the interview will be recorded:

To enable me to capture all the information during the interview would you mind if the interview is recorded?

(Turn digital recorder on)

Note Taking:

I may need to take some notes during the interview, I hope that is ok?

Explanation of confidentiality:

Any data that is collected today will remain entirely confidential to the research team. Where we use data in analysis and reporting, it will be anonymous.

Check participant is happy to continue:

Do you have any questions so far?

Are you happy for me to continue?

Section 1: Identified Case Discussion

Prompts to identified case:

You were involved in a Mental Health Act assessment on (date/month/year)?

State that researchers are blinded to personal details of the identified case:

Just to let you know, I do not know the name of the case in question due to research governance.

Clarify participants' role in the case:

For the sake of our records, could you tell me what your role was in this assessment?

Discussion of assessment:

Can you tell me about that assessment?

(Encourage to start wherever participant thinks is appropriate)
(Encourage detail in answer)

Tell me what you knew was available?

(Encourage participant to discuss the outcome of the assessment, bed availability, treatment options available)

Prompts:

- What was it that made you think the person needed to be detained?
(Encourage to talk about clinical presentation, risk and previous history)
- What happened in that situation?
- What did you do?
- Is there anything you would have liked to be different?

Thank you. From what you have told me I am not clear in how you went about finding out about the availability of appropriate treatments in this case, can we discuss this further
(If participant has not discussed the ATT then ask directly)

Section 2: Discussion of the ATT

Discussion of ATT:

Are you familiar with the Appropriate Treatment Test or ATT?

(If the participant is unfamiliar with the term then this should be explained)

What impact do you think the Appropriate Treatment Test has on your professional practice?

What impact do you think the Appropriate Treatment Test has on outcomes for service users/patients?

What impact do you think the Appropriate Treatment Test has on local service provision?
(This may be more relevant to participants who have a managerial role)

Discussion around new categories for detention:

The Mental Health Act now permits detention under the following categories: Sexual Deviancy, Personality Disorder and Learning Disabilities

From your experience in your specialty, what do you think the appropriate treatments are for these categories?

Prompt

- Can we start with.....then....

Is there anything else you want to mention about the Appropriate Treatment Test?

Prompt

- Have you come across any clinical dilemmas when using the Appropriate treatment Test?

Section 3: Participants own clinical practice

Discussion of participants experience of Mental Health Act assessments:

How long have you been a Section 12(2) Approved doctor for?

Are you an Approved Clinician (AC) or a Responsible Clinician (RC) under the new Act?

How many Mental Health Act assessments have you been involved in since the introduction of the new act?

On average, how many Mental Health Act assessments do you do per month?

Prompt

- How many Mental Health Act assessments do you do per year?
(Use prompt if clinician is from a subspeciality background)