DEDIPOM-Research Project Phase 3

**Semi-structured guideline for qualitative interviews with caregivers**

**Introduction**

Talking together with patients (P) and their caregivers is an essential part of their treatment and support. In the case of patients with serious, incurable diseases, personal topics are often addressed, such as the imminent end of life. Today I would like to talk to you about how you perceive such conversations with patients or their relatives (R).

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| **Entering the**  **communication with P** | **I am particularly interested in the conversations about desire to die that you had as part of your study participation. How did you experience these conversations?** |
| Content  Influence | * What is it about when you talk to your P about death wishes? * What aspects of such conversation do you think are challenging / pleasant? * How do you feel during and after having such conversation with P? * What has it been like for you, since beginning our study, to approach P directly about desire to die? |
| **Communication about desire to die** | **You also had a conversation with P. How did you perceive this conversation - or possible follow-up conversations?** |
| Self-perception  Proactive | * How did you experience yourself in this conversation? * How do you think P perceived the conversation? * Did you remember anything in particular from this conversation? * What do you think you did particularly well? What would you have liked to have done better? * Who brought up the subject of wanting to die? What was that like for you? |
| **Relatives** | **There may also have been conversations with R in which desire to die were a topic.** |
| R – CG  R –P  General | * If so, what is it like to talk with R about desires to die? * Does the relationship dynamic allow for a conversation about desire to die? * As a CG, how do you experience the topic of desire to die in conversations between P and R? * What is it like for you in general to talk with R about the topic of desire to die? Compared to conversations with P? |
| **Relationship with patient/relatives** | **How would you describe your relationship with P?** |
| CG - P  CG - R | * What effect did the conversation have on the relationship between you and P? * Why did you choose P for the study? * How do you perceive P’s relatives R? * How would you describe your relationship with R? * How does the P - R relationship affect your communication with P? |
| **Study participation** |  |
| Conversation aid  Study | * What role did the guide play for you in the interview? * How did you experience the use of the documentation form? * It is possible that something changed for you privately or professionally as a result of participating in the study. If so, what impact did study participation have on you? * How did your attitude toward proactively addressing death wishes change? * What motivated you to participate in the study? |
| **Interview conclusion** | **You have already mentioned many interesting points to me. From my side, this would bring us to the end of the conversation.** |
|  | Is there anything else you would like to add to the topic? Something that is important to you or something that has not yet been mentioned?  Is there anything else you would like to know or that remained unclear?  How was the interview for you?  What was the reason for you to participate in this interview? |
| **Acknowledgement** | **We thank you very much for your participation. The results of the interviews will certainly help to significantly improve the conversations between patients and providers.** |