

Appendix

Appendix 1. Semi-structured interview guide.



Semi-Structured Interview Guide¹

Thank-you for taking the time to participate in this interview to help us understand the impact of delaying non-urgent surgeries on healthcare providers. My name is {insert name}, I am a {insert role}. The primary investigator is Dr. Khara Sauro.

You have been invited here today because we are interested in hearing your experience as a healthcare provider for patient who had a planned surgery delayed during the COVID-19 pandemic response. We will ask for your experience.

Thank you again for your participation.

Before we begin, I would like to make sure that you know that there are no right or wrong answers in our discussion today; we are interested in all comments. We don't want to miss any of your comments and feedback, so we are taking detailed notes and audio recording our conversation.

Please be assured what is said and discussed today will be kept confidential and any information you provide will be kept in a password protected folder on a secure server, accessible only by members of the research team. As is noted in the informed consent, your participation is voluntary and you are free to decline participation at any point should you wish to do so for any reason. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Do you have any questions before we begin?

1. What is your professional role (surgeon, operating room nurse, recovery nurse, other)?
 - a. If a surgeon, ask the types of surgery they perform
2. How long have you worked in your current role?
3. How long have you worked as {insert role/profession}?
4. What is your age?
Prompts: [If participant preferred], Age group: <20 years, 20-29 years, 30-39 years, 40-49 years, 50-59 years, ≥60 years
5. What is the gender with which you identify?

¹ The interview guide was initially designed to be used and applied to different healthcare worker populations but only surgeons were recruited for this phase of the qualitative study.

Appendix

6. What type of institution do you currently work in?
Prompts: [If participant preferred], Academic, Non-academic, regional, or urban
7. How many beds does your hospital have?
Prompts: [If participant preferred], ≤250, 251-499, 500-1000, >1000
8. How has the pandemic impacted you, professionally?
9. How has the COVID-19 pandemic response changed your clinical or surgical workload?
Prompts:
 - a. How much has it increased or decreased?
10. How has delaying non-urgent surgeries impacted the surgical service at your hospital?
Prompts:
 - a. Has your hospital had to delay or cancel surgeries to make room for Covid-19 patients?
 - b. Has your hospital had to change policies and procedures around surgery during Covid-19?
11. Can you please tell us, in your opinion, how has delaying surgeries impacted your patients?
12. What is your opinion on the decisions to delay surgeries in response to the Covid-19 pandemic?
Prompts:
 - a. What do you think the alternate options were?
 - b. How could the people making the decisions do a better job in the future?
 - c. What do you think was done really well?
13. What do you think are possible ways to minimize the impact of surgical delays, such as those experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic, on surgical patients in the future?

I would just like to take a moment and summarize what we've talked about today. <Summarize key points>.

Do you have anything else to add that we may not have captured?

Thank you so much for speaking with me today and for providing your experiences.