

“Paramedics' experiences of end of life care decision making with regards to nursing home residents, an exploration of influential issues and factors.”

Appendix 1 – Interview Guide

Thank you for agreeing to this interview, I have 6 main questions to ask but am keen to hear your views so may explore some of your ideas in greater detail. There are no right or wrong answers; I am interested in learning from you and hearing your opinions and experiences.

Setting the context:

The specific group of patients I want to focus on are elderly patients, living in nursing homes who are near their end of life. With appreciation that it can be very difficult say when this time may be, it has been defined as near or at the active phase of dying (72 hours from death). It is recognised that when responding to an emergency call you will frequently not have a firm diagnosis that the patient is near their end of life but as a guide this group of patients will have many conditions, be bed bound and frail, having had a gradual decline in their health. This photo gives an idea of the type of patient group I wish to discuss, please bear this in mind when answering questions and thinking of related experiences.

1. Tell me about patients' wishes or preferences, what do you think they relate to?

Probe: When patients' have expressed their wishes, what have they been about?

Probe: How can you identify a patient's wishes?

2. Can you tell me about some of your experiences of decision making for patients in nursing homes near their end of life?

Probe: Decision making regarding any treatment/conveyance to hospital?

Probe: Who is involved in this decision making?

3. What part do patient wishes play in decision making? (Clarify patient group)

Probe: Is it useful to know the patients' wishes when making a decision on scene?

Probe: What value do they have? Compared to family wishes?

4. Are there any difficulties in using a patient's wishes when making a decision on scene?

Probe: Have you had any experiences when the patient's wishes were known but you couldn't follow them?

5. Thinking of experiences from practice, if a patient's wishes are unknown tell me how decisions are made on scene?

6. How can you determine what are in a patient's best interests?