

1 Interview Guide for Caregivers

2 Introduction

3 The interview is about your experience of being a caregiver participant in the GOAL study. In this
4 study your (friend/partner/etc) saw a geriatrician in the outpatient clinic.

5 Thank you for discussing your experiences. You have a unique perspective in helping us understand
6 what in the study worked well and what didn't. There are no right or wrong answers; your personal
7 views and experiences are what interest me.

8 The decision to be involved in this study is entirely up to you. If at any point there are questions you
9 do not want to answer please let me know – you do not have to answer any question if you don't
10 want to.

11 With your permission I would like to record our conversation today so that I can listen carefully and
12 later on re-listen to the recording to extract the most useful aspects. We take your confidentiality
13 very seriously. When we transcribe the interviews we will remove any details that might identify
14 you. We then collate the responses from your interview and the interviews with other people. Your
15 name will never be published as one of the individuals who participated in the interview part of this
16 research and it will not be possible to identify you from any material published from this interview.

17 Is it ok with you if I record our conversation today?

18 <Start recording>

19 1. Caregiver relationship

20 What is your relationship to the trial participant?

21

22 2. Recruitment

23 Are you able to describe how you came to be involved in the GOAL study and what your
24 thoughts were about your (friend/partner/parent etc) being involved?

25 Prompts

- 26 • Were you involved in their decision to be part of the study?
- 27 • Why did they agree to participate in this study?
- 28 • What were you hoping might be the positive outcomes?
- 29 • Were there any factors that made you or them hesitant or unsure when deciding
30 whether they should participate?
- 31 • How did the nephrologist or nurse frame the benefits/harms when talking about the
32 study?

33

34 3. Experience of CGA

35 As part of the trial, you had consultation with a geriatrician. Can you remember that
36 assessment and consultation by the geriatrician and can you tell me how that went?

37 Prompts

- 38 • Were you present for the consultation?
- 39 • Did you feel engaged and included?
- 40 • If you weren't present why was that?
- 41 • What did you understand would happen in the assessment?
- 42 • Is what actually happened in the geriatrician appointment different to what you
43 expected?

- 1 • Did you discuss the goals you had previously identified?
- 2 • What was the geriatrician most interested in?
- 3 • What were the outcomes from that assessment?
- 4 • Which parts of the assessment held the most value for you?
- 5

6 **4. Goal Attainment Scaling**

7 Do you remember them doing the goal-setting with the research coordinator prior to seeing
8 the geriatricians? How helpful was this and how did it frame the discussion when you did see
9 the geriatrician?

10 *Prompts:*

- 11 • Do you think there was value in doing this GAS? What was it?
- 12 • Did the goals seem relevant, meaningful and achievable?
- 13 • If you weren't present for the discussion, did you (friend/partner etc) discuss the
- 14 goals with you?
- 15

16 **5. Role of MDT**

17 Did the appointment with the geriatrician lead to other assessments or appointments? E.g. ,
18 occupational therapist, social worker, counsellor or other doctor?

19 *Prompts:*

- 20 • Were these consultations useful?
- 21 • Did you get a sense of the MDT being 'on the same page'
- 22 • Did you sense that the MDT were communicating with each other?
- 23

24 **6. Acceptability and Value of CGA**

25 Would you like to have similar consultation with this geriatrician again? Based on your
26 experiences with this study, do you think it would be good to have a geriatrician integrated
27 into the care team for older frail patients with chronic kidney disease? If yes, why; if no, why
28 not?

29 *Prompts:*

- 30 • Did you feel that the geriatrician consultation added value? Was the consultation
- 31 helpful?
- 32 • What were the positive aspects of the consultation?
- 33 • Was there anything that did not go so well for you in that conversation or that you
- 34 would have liked to be done differently?
- 35 • What were the negative aspects of the consultation? E.g. care and decision making
- 36 already happening with another team, too sick, too overwhelmed with
- 37 appointments, seeing geriatrician too late, lack of continuity etc
- 38 • Were there other reasons for why the conversation was not so helpful – maybe felt
- 39 too unwell or overwhelmed at the time?
- 40 • Were there any unexpected positive or negative outcomes of the assessment?
- 41 • Overall would you recommend this consultation to others?
- 42 • Did the consultation impact your quality of life?
- 43

44 **7. Barriers**

45 Was there anything that made it difficult for you to participate in the geriatrician
46 consultation?

- 47 • Was transport to the appointment difficult?

- 1 • Did the appointments take up too much time?
- 2 • Were there any additional costs to you because of the geriatrician assessment?
- 3
- 4 **8. Processes**
- 5 What was it about the consultation that made it a positive or negative experience?
- 6 *Prompts:*
- 7 • Did the geriatrician involve you in the plan and decision-making?
- 8 • Did the geriatrician understand your concerns?
- 9 • Was communication adequate?
- 10 • Was there good rapport with the geriatrician?
- 11 •
- 12 **9. Wellbeing**
- 13 Did the intervention/study impact your own work and wellbeing? If yes, in what way? If no,
- 14 why not?
- 15
- 16 **10. Other**
- 17 Would you like to make any other comments about your experience of being involved in the
- 18 trial, or having the geriatrician assessment?
- 19 Any other comments before we close?
- 20 Thank you very much for your time. We really appreciate the effort you have gone to share your
- 21 experiences and improve our knowledge about this trial.
- 22