

## Appendix Two: Interview schedule

### Draft interview schedule

- Introduction. Note that interview will be recorded, and a transcript provided for checking.

*I understand that you treat children who present/are admitted to hospital with exacerbation of their asthma. As you are aware, most children improve with systemic corticosteroids and inhaled beta-agonists. Some children do not respond to this treatment, and require escalation in treatment, such as inhaled magnesium, parenteral bronchodilators, or respiratory support. I would like to discuss with you today how you assess and treat these children, including how you would define a severe exacerbation of asthma. Do you give your verbal consent to be involved in this study and agree that I will document this verbal consent on the CRF sheet?*

- How do you decide a child you are seeing in the emergency department that you work has asthma? And what criteria do you use to differentiate severity? (observations or clinical signs)
- Can you describe the measures/signs that you use to decide a child should be classified as experiencing a **severe** exacerbation of asthma?
  - Do you routinely use an asthma clinical score to assist with this definition and if so, which one?
- What factors do you use to decide if the child warrants use of:
  - Inhaled magnesium?
  - Intravenous bronchodilators?
  - High-flow nasal oxygen?
  - Non-invasive ventilation?
- Does access to resources influence the treatment you use?
- Do you feel you have the necessary skills to administer the treatment regime you think should be used?

- With more invasive treatment (such as intravenous bronchodilators, non-invasive ventilation, etc) what parameters or clinical symptoms/signs are you trying to change?
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- How do you measure this?
- What worries you most about children with acute severe asthma?
- How do you decide which treatment regime to use?
  - *PROMPTS*
    - *Local guidelines? (What do you think your local guidelines are based on?)*
    - *Consensus amongst colleagues in your department?*
    - *Personal experience?*
    - *Knowledge of current research data?*
- Have you changed your practice in the last 1-2 years? In the last 5 years?
  - *If yes, what was this change based on?*
- Do you feel you use “the best” treatment regime?
  - *Why do you think this is the best treatment regime?*
  - *How similar do you think your treatment is to that given by your colleagues?*
  - *In the same department? In the same hospital? Internationally?*
  - *If there are differences – why do these differences exist?*
- How do you define treatment success?
- If we were doing research looking at how well a treatment worked in children with acute/severe asthma what outcomes would you think are important?
  - *Why are these outcomes important?*
  - *What information do you need or questions do you need answering from research to help you manage this condition?*
  - *What evidence gaps do you think there are?*

- Conclude interview. Check for any missing concepts, anything else the interviewee would like to say.
- Questions regarding involvement in later follow-up work.
- Thank participant.