**Appendix 1.**

**Understanding Primary Care Physician Attitudes and Beliefs Rural Health Disparities and Referral for Urologic Care**

*\*Note: As is customary with semi-structured interview guides, these are guidelines for conducting the interview. The exact direction of the interview will vary, depending upon the conversation. Of particular importance throughout is to understand the mental models that physicians bring to managing patients with localized prostate cancer.*

*Font legend:*

*Italicized = instructions to interviewer*

Regular = suggested opening and closing language by interviewer

Underlined = questions and probes

# Introduction

**Interview description and permission for taping**

***Request permission for audio-taping:***

Are you okay if our interview is recorded? Recordings will be de-identified by removing all names and will be deleted from the recorder as soon as they are downloaded.

**Interview guidelines**

When I ask questions, I will not voice any opinions rural healthcare disparities. To avoid making any assumptions about what you mean by certain responses, I may probe further to ask for explanations.

*Begin digital recorder:* May I confirm your permission to audio-tape this interview?

*State participant number.*

1. *What do you see as the major barriers to healthcare either those faced by you as a provider, or those faced by the patient in your community?*
2. *What kind of financial barriers do patient’s encounter in obtaining healthcare?*

*Probes:*

* 1. *What type of insurance if any do most patients have?*
  2. *Does patient coverage impact your practice?*
  3. *Has the ACA affected your patients?*
  4. *Are there one or two things health plans you are contracted with could do to better enable you to provide care in your community?*
  5. *Do financial barriers prevent patients from seeing specialists like Urology, obtain diagnostic testing, or screening measures such as PSA for cancer related care?*

1. *Do you feel lack of providers in your area is a problem?*

*Probes:*

* 1. *How many patients do you see in a day?*
  2. *How long does it take for patients to get an appointment?*
  3. *What types of providers and/or specialists are lacking?*
  4. *Why do physicians leave your community? Why do they stay?*
  5. *Does your area have a local Urologists and do they manage most oncologic problems?*
  6. *Have any initiatives been instituted to attract more providers?*
  7. *What types of initiatives would be beneficial? (physician extenders, telemedicine, travel to urban center)*

1. *What challenges do you and your patients experience when referral for specialty care, particular for cancer related diagnosis, is required?*
   1. *Do you have an in-office coordinator to assist with referrals?*
   2. *How do you handle cancer-related referrals for uninsured patients?*
   3. *Is Tele-health implemented in your practice?*
2. *Do you think travel distance & transportation impacts patient care?*

*Probes:*

* 1. *Do patients complain of travel related problems?*
  2. *What is the furthest distance patients may travel to see you?*
  3. *Do you have to travel to other clinics?*
  4. *Do patients have to travel far to see specialists? Specifically, a Urologist?*
  5. *Are patients reluctant to travel in order to see you?*
  6. *Are patients reluctant to travel to see a specialists (ie a Urologist)?*

1. *Does patient healthcare literacy impact care in your community?*

*Probes:*

* 1. *What types of barriers regarding health literacy exist (language, education, etc)?*
  2. *Is there a lack of compliance among your patients, either regarding medication, obtaining testing, or keeping referral appointments to see specialists?*

1. *Is there anything we haven’t covered that you feel would be relevant information?*
2. *Final, is there another physician practicing in a rural environment that would be willing to speak with me?*

# CONCLUSION

## Confidentiality

I want to reiterate once again that all of your comments will be treated as strictly confidential. The information you have shared will be combined with the responses from other interviews for analysis and will not be associated with you personally in any way. This has been enormously useful, so thank you once again for your time and your cooperation. It is deeply appreciated.