



3.2 ARF Adult Patient Interview Schedule

INTRODUCTION

(purpose of this is to make the interviewee feel comfortable)

- Introduce yourself
- Reason for interview (explain research)
- Ethics (explain consent form and any ethical issues)
- Ask the patient if they have any questions.
- Thank the interviewee for their time and willingness to participate
- Ask the interviewee about themselves (how they are feeling etc.)

A THEME

Disease History/Admission to Hospital

Probe for information about the patient's health over time.

There will be two possible types of patients within this group:

- Patients who have recently been diagnosed with ARF/admitted to the hospital
- Patients who were in hospital, but have since been discharged

In both instances we want to elicit information about their experiences and probe for information on the health seeking process/behaviour. Adapt questions appropriately for each type of patient i.e. pre/post hospitalisation/diagnosis.

- So you have been diagnosed with ARF, what can you tell us about your experience of being ill?
- Why were you admitted today OR why were you admitted before?
- How were you feeling before going to the clinic/hospital?
 - How long did you feel ill before going to the clinic?
 - Do you remember ever having a sore throat?
 - Did you have previous episodes of ARF before seeking care at the clinic/hospital?
- What made you decide to seek care at the clinic/hospital at that particular moment?
- What are your symptoms?
 - Probe: chorea, arthritis, skin conditions, fever, shortness of breath
- What did you think it was?
 - Probe: malaria

B THEME

Relationships with Health Professionals & Understanding of Disease

Understanding the patient-provider relationship aids our understanding of their decisions made in relation to health-seeking behaviour as this may or may not have an influence on their disease management/knowledge.

- When you were admitted/diagnosed, what did the doctor/nurses tell you about your illness?
 - Probe: ARF, Sore Throat, relation to *RHD, knowledge on the progression of the disease
- Do you see the same doctor/nurse each time you go to the clinic/hospital?
- Did the doctor prescribe any medication?
 - Probe: secondary prophylaxis, penicillin allergies, knowledge of treatment/disease management

C THEME

Health Seeking Behaviour

Seeks to try to identify which factors made the patient decide to seek care at this particular point in time.

- What do you do when you feel ill?
- How have you been looking after yourself until now?
 - Probe: Support Network; family and friends
- Did you use any home remedies?
- Did you see anyone else for the symptoms you had?
 - Probe: traditional healers, stigma attached to disease/symptoms (e.g. fear of speaking out because of witchcraft)
- Do you visit the clinic/hospital regularly?
 - Probe: Secondary prophylaxis

Sub-theme: Social Perceptions of Disease Characteristics

For people who described chorea-like symptoms: we want to know about the social structure of the community i.e. values, beliefs etc. factors that influence the way in which people think about disease(s). This can allow for the following probes as well as reveal further information that we did not know about prior to the interview.

- What did you think when you experienced strange movements?
 - What did other people think?
 - Probe: Chorea; Witchcraft
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D THEME

Impact on Daily Life

Understanding the impact of illness on the patients' daily lives can aid the understanding of health-seeking behaviour and adherence (or lack thereof) to long-term treatment.

- Is it easy to get to the hospital?
- How do you get to the hospital?
 - Distance: is it far?
 - Transport: is it an issue?
 - Cost: can you afford to travel to the hospital?
- Finances:
 - How does this illness affect your work and income?
 - Can you afford treatment/medication?
 - How does the cost of treatment/medication affect the household?

E THEME

Awareness

Understanding what and how much patients know about their illness and RHD awareness.

- Were you given info about your diagnosis?
- What else would you still like to know?
- Have you used any way of looking up facts about ARF?
- Do you use your phone or the internet?
- Did you know that a sore throat can cause ARF?
- Have you heard of RHD?
- Do you know what you can do to prevent ARF from developing into RHD?
 - Probe: penicillin; adherence to secondary prophylaxis
 - Probe: Internet, information, phone access

Thank the patient for their time and participation