

Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors)

Interview guide for patients

Topic 1 – Decision-Making

1. Do you know what an angiogram is? [if not, explain it briefly in lay terms]
2. Did you have one, or did your heart doctor talk about it with you?
3. How did you decide whether to have an angiogram?
4. Who made the decision – you, your doctor, or both together?
5. What information did you have?
6. Who gave you the information?
7. Did you understand the risks and benefits of the angiogram?
8. What did you understand they (risks and benefits) were?
9. Did you get information from someone other than your doctor or nurse?

Topic 2- Aids to Decision-Making

In this next set of questions we're going to talk about what information helped you make the decision, and what might have helped that you didn't have.

1. What information helped you the most in making a decision?
2. [If they were stuck between doing it or not] What convinced you make the decision you made?
3. What would you have liked to know, but didn't?
4. Who would you have wanted to talk to, but didn't?
5. Is there anything else you can think of that would have made the decision easier? [Probes: A pamphlet with some of the basic information? A list of questions most people ask (FAQ)? More time with the heart doctor?]
6. Would learning [more] about risks and benefits have helped?

We've reached the end of the questions. Is there anything I didn't ask that I should have, or anything else you wanted to mention?

Do you have any questions?

Thank you so much for sharing your experiences and ideas with me today.

We'll be summarizing the information from these interviews later in the project and sending out a report to people who participated and want to receive it. Would you be interested in receiving a brief summary of the results? What would be the best way to contact you when the report is ready?

Interview guide for physicians

- 1) Can you tell me about the typical patient with chronic kidney disease who has an acute coronary syndrome and some of the most important decisions that you and these patients face?
- 2) I'd like to get more information on the choice of an invasive versus conservative management approach (i.e. decision to have an angiogram) in patients with chronic kidney disease. How do you introduce the topic of the angiogram to patients?
- 3) What options do you give?
- 4) What did you see as the main risks and benefits of these options? (Possible probes: risks: need for dialysis, worsening kidney function, acute kidney event, benefits: reduced risk of repeat heart attack, reduced risk of prehospitalization for coronary event, quality of life, mobility, mortality?)
- 5) Do you approach patients with CKD differently?
- 6) Can you describe how most patients make the decision to have the angiogram or not?
- 7) How long does this decision take?
- 8) Who is most involved in making the decision?
- 9) How did you think patients feel when they have to make this decision?
(Probe:
 - a. Unsure about what to do?
 - b. Worried about what could go wrong?
 - c. Distressed or upset?
 - d. Constantly thinking about it?
 - e. Wavering between choices?
 - f. Delaying decision-making?
 - g. Questioning what was important to you?
 - h. Feeling physically stressed?
Heart racing? Trouble sleeping?)

10) How would you describe the angiogram decision-making process: a) you make the decision for the patient, b) you share the decision with your patient, c) you provide support or advice for the patient to make the decision on his or her own?

11) Is it a difficult decision? What makes this decision difficult to make?

(Probe: Do patients:

- a. Lack information about the options?
- b. Lack information about the risks and benefits?
- c. Lack information on what others have chosen?
- d. Feel pressure to choose one option over another?
- e. Lack support from others?
- f. Not feel ready to make a decision?
- g. Lack the ability to make this decision?)

12) Is there anything else needed to help patients make this decision?

13) I will list some possible ways to help people make decisions, which do you think would be helpful from your perspective?

- a. Counselling from a healthcare provider
- b. Discussion groups with others facing the same decision
- c. Individualized health information
- d. Information material → books, videos, website, decision-aid, etc.

14) Is there anything else you would like to add about ways to help others decide about receiving an angiogram?
