

## Supplementary Table 1.

## Topic guides for individuals with axSpA and partners

Question number	Topic guide for partners	Topic guide for individual with axSpA
1	When where you first aware that your partner had axSpA?	To start with, can you tell me about when you first noticed your axSpA symptoms? <i>Prompts: How have your symptoms changed (or not) until now? At what point did you receive your diagnosis?</i>
2	How do you think axSpA has impacted on your partner's life?	Can you talk through a typical day for you living with axSpA?
3	Can you tell me about any ways that your partner's condition has impacted on your life? <i>Prompts: How has your partners' axSpA affected your ability to engage in your choice of leisure activities? How has your partners' condition affected your home life? What is it about the illness that has impacted your life the most? Which symptoms/treatments have impacted the most? Why do you think these aspects of axSpA have impacted on your life the most? If any, what are the positive factors of your partner's axSpA on your life? What are the more negative factors of your partner's axSpA on your life?</i>	Can you tell me about any ways that the condition has impacted on your life? <i>Prompts: How has axSpA affected your home life? How has axSpA affected your ability to work? How has axSpA affected your ability to engage in your choice of leisure activities? What is it about the illness that has impacted on your life the most? Which symptoms have impacted the most? Which treatments have impacted the most? Why do you think these aspects of axSpA have impacted on your life the most? If any, what are the positive factors of axSpA in your life? What are the more negative factors of axSpA in your life?</i>
4	If it has, how has your life changed as a result of your partners' condition? <i>Prompts: what changes in your life have occurred as a result of your partners' condition? What alterations (if any) have you had to make in your life? What were the reasons behind these changes? How do you feel about the changes? What have been the more</i>	If it has, how has your life changed since developing axSpA? <i>Prompts: What changes in your life have occurred as a result of the axSpA diagnosis? What alterations (if any) have you had to make in your life? What were the reasons behind these changes? How do you feel about the changes? What have been the more negative changes? What have been the more positive changes?</i>

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*negative changes? What have been the more positive changes?*

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| 5  | <p>What have you found particularly challenging about your partners axSpA on your life?</p> <p><i>Prompts: Can you tell me about any concerns/complications related to axSpA which have arisen? What particular symptoms have been challenging? Why were those particular symptoms challenging? How did you help resolve them (if you have)?</i></p> | <p>Can you tell me about any particular challenges you have experienced living with axSpA?</p> <p><i>Prompts: Can you tell me about any concerns/complications related to axSpA which have arisen? What particular symptoms have been challenging? What particular treatments/appointments have been challenging? Why have those particular treatments/symptoms/appointments been challenging? How have you resolved them (if you have)?</i></p> |
| 6  | <p>What do you think defines a good quality partner relationship?</p>  | <p>Can you tell me about some of the things that you do to manage your axSpA in your everyday life?</p> <p><i>Prompts: What kinds of strategies do you use to manage the symptoms? What do you do to manage your home life? What do you do to manage your work life? Why do you manage axSpA this way? What impact does this management have? How effective are these strategies?</i></p>  |
| 7  | <p>How would you describe your relationship with your partner generally?</p>   | <p>What do you think makes a good quality partner relationship?</p>  |
| 8  | <p>What support (if at all) do you receive as a result of supporting your partner with axSpA?</p> <p><i>Prompts: What kinds of support would you like to receive?</i></p>  | <p>How would you describe your relationship with your partner generally?</p>   |
| 9  | <p>If you do, what aspects of axSpA would you typically talk about with your partner?</p> <p><i>Prompts: Can you think why you would talk about these aspects in particular? How does your partner typically respond?</i></p>  | <p>If you do, what aspects of axSpA would you typically talk about with your partner?</p> <p><i>Prompt: Can you think why you would talk about these aspects in particular? How does your partner typically respond?</i></p>   |
| 10 | <p>Can you recall in what instances</p>  | <p>Can you recall in what situations your partner</p>  |
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	<p>you were a source of support for your partner in relation to their axSpA?</p> <p><i>Prompts: How did you support your partner in managing their condition? In what circumstances would you typically support your partner in managing their condition? Why do these circumstances require your support? Can you think of any circumstances where you have not been so supportive? Why were you not so supportive?</i></p>	<p>has been a source of support in relation to your axSpA?</p> <p><i>Prompts: How were they supportive? Why do you think they were supportive in those situations? In what situations were they not so supportive? How were they not as supportive? Why do you think they were not supportive?</i></p>
11	<p>How has the condition impacted on your relationship with your partner?</p> <p><i>Prompt: Why do you think these aspects of axSpA have impacted on your relationship? Has this changed over the course of the condition? How has this changed over the course of the condition? What are the more positive factors on your relationship? What are the more negative factors on your relationship? What roles do you and your partner take within the relationship? Have these roles changed since the development of axSpA?</i></p>	<p>How has the condition impacted on your relationship with your partner?</p> <p><i>Prompts: Why do you think these aspects of axSpA have impacted on your relationship? Has this changed over the course of the condition? What are the more positive factors on your relationship? What are the more negative factors on your relationship? What roles do you and your partner take within the relationship? Have these roles changed since the development of axSpA?</i></p>
12	<p>How (if at all) do you think axSpA will impact on your relationship with your partner in the future?</p> <p><i>Prompt: Why do you think axSpA will have this impact?</i></p>	<p>How (if at all) do you think axSpA will impact on your relationship with your partner in the future?</p> <p><i>Prompt: Why do you think axSpA will have this impact?</i></p>
13	<p>Is there anything else that you would like to say or any final thoughts you would like to mention about your experiences of axSpA?</p>	<p>Is there anything else that you would like to say or any final thoughts you would like to mention about your experiences of axSpA?</p>

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