

ANNEX: INTERVIEW GUIDE

Title: BREAKING BAD NEWS IN ONCOLOGY PRACTICE: EXPERIENCE AND CHALLENGES OF ONCOLOGY HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN ETHIOPIA: AN EXPLORATORY QUALITATIVE STUDY

Introductory definition of the term “breaking bad news”: Breaking bad news refers to the *disclosure of any health-related information that can adversely alter a person’s view of his or her future*. It may refer not only to *a diagnosis, but also to a poor prognosis, a relapse, a therapeutic failure, or the irreversible side effects of a treatment*. Moreover, it may pertain to diseases such as cancer as well as a wide range of other diseases and medical conditions like Alzheimer’s disease, multiple sclerosis, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and so on.

Aim: to explore the experiences and challenges of oncology health professionals in breaking bad news to cancer patients in BLSH, Oncology center, March 2019

- To explore the typical experiences of oncology health professional in breaking bad news to cancer patients in BLSH, Oncology center, March 2019
- To identify the challenges of Oncology health professionals in breaking bad news to cancer patents in BLSH, Oncology center, March 2019

Research questions

- What are Oncology health professionals’ self-reported experiences regarding breaking bad news?
- What are the Ethical issues experienced by oncology health professionals during BBN?
- What are the factors affecting the delivery of bad news?
- What are the suggested solutions for the identified challenges?

Inclusion criteria: physicians and general nurses, oncology nurses at least with two-years’ experience in oncology unit and have experience in breaking bad news.

Part 1: Introduction and consent form.

I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with me today. My name is -----and We are conducting survey among oncology health professionals working in oncology unit, at BLSH, so as one provider in the hospital, I would like to talk to you about how you feel and experienced working in breaking bad news to cancer patients, how perceive patients/families think about breaking bad news, and the major challenges you encountered in breaking bad news. Your

response will help us to explore the real experience and challenges of oncology health professionals faced during BBN to cancer patients which is important to design the most appropriate strategies.

The interview will take 40 minutes-1 hour. I will be taping the session because I don't want to miss any of your ideas. Although I will be taking some notes during the session, I can't possibly write fast enough to get it all down. Because we're on tape, please be sure to speak up so that we don't miss your ideas/information. All responses will be kept confidential. This means that your interview responses will only be shared with research team members and we will ensure that any information we include in our report does not identify you as the respondent.

Benefit of the study: No direct benefit, but the information you provide will help us in exploring the experience and challenges of health professionals in BBN to cancer patients, which at the end will have benefit to improve the service.

Harm of the study: No harm except you expend some time

Rights: Remember, you don't have to talk about anything you don't want to and you may end the interview at any time.

Are there any questions about what I have just explained? Are you willing to participate in this interview?

Yes _____ No _____

Interviewee

Date

Part II

Socio demographic characters.

1. Age -----
2. Sex 1) Male 2) Female
3. Religion 1) Orthodox 2) Muslim 3) Protestant 4) Catholic 5) Other -----
4. Marital status 1) Married 2) Single 3) Divorced 4) Widow
5. Occupation/working status 1) Nurse Msc/BSc/Diploma 2) Resident. II, III, IV, V 3) Oncologist
6. Duration of service/experience -----

7. Palliative medicine or care exposure

Interview guides

1. Practice

I: Would you please share your typical experience related to the outcome of Breaking bad news?

Probe: Any positive/negative consequence of the patient as a result of appropriate disclosure or inappropriate disclosure?

I: Can you share with us any cases related to breach of code of ethics (patient/ family/health professionals related)?

Probe: how did they handle the ethical case?

I: How do you see the feelings/ needs of the patient during breaking bad news?

Probe: Privacy, family related preference/feeling, social related, physician related?

I: How do you see the acceptance of bad news by the patient? *Probe: factors affecting the acceptance*

I: Which factors do you believe can affect, positively or negatively, the way bad news is delivered?

Probe:

- patient related, patient's family related (*Probe: Sociocultural, economical, religious, educational status, residence*)
- health professionals related (*Probe: knowledge, experience, adequate no. of trained health professionals*)
- *Probe: resources, materials, rooms, protocols, guidelines, code of ethics*

I: Does the health care organization you work/BLSH for use **specific protocol/ code of ethics guidelines/strategies** regarding the disclosure of bad news? If yes, please specify.

- If available, do you think that the health professionals are breaking bad news according to those guidelines/protocols. If not, what are reasons not to develop **specific protocol/ code of ethics guidelines**
- What do you currently use to **break bad news?**

2. Challenges

I: What are the most common challenges in this hospital/ oncology unit related to breaking bad news to cancer patients?

I: What are the major ethical challenges in breaking bad news in this unit?

Probe: ethical challenges from the patient side, from patients' family side, from health professionals' side?

- Do you have experience of family's request not to tell the patient about the diagnosis?
- Have you had the experience of a patient insisting to know the truth and the family strongly oppose that? Probe: How did you handle it?

3. Human capacity building/ Training (formal or informal)

I: Did you get any training related to breaking bad news?

Probe: when was the training given? Was it formal (as a course during UG/PG training) or informal (continuous in service), were you satisfied with the content and mode of delivery of the training?

- If not satisfied/ not given: what are the reasons? What do you suggest: content, modality, frequency.....?
- Where should be the *focus of an educational course* on breaking bad news?

4. Suggested solutions

I: In general, what do you suggest to improve the delivery of breaking bad news?

I: At a country level, what strategies do you recommend to improve the breaking bad news?

- the socio-cultural context of Ethiopia

I: If you have anything you want to add as a summary

I: I thank you very much

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