Appendix I: Interview Guide

PART I: Informed Consent for Interviews

What's this Project About?

The purpose of this project is to increase cancer screening among individuals who have a history of sexual abuse. To do this, we need to understand what would improve cancer screening among individuals who have been sexually abused. We will use what we learn to develop and pilot an educational video targeting health care providers from the medical community on the needs of abuse survivors in relation to cancer screening.

Why Me?

We would like to talk with you because you are an abuse survivor.

What do you want from me?

We would like your guidance and insight on what would make it easier to get screened for breast, cervical and/or colon cancer. Phone interviews will run 45 minutes to a little over an hour if we get chatty.

What are the Risks?

The interview will focus on present experiences with the medical system and cancer screening. However, the conversation could touch on past memories of abuse, which could bring up old feelings, which may or may not be distressing. You will be supported through all emotions experienced through conversation and interaction. If you feel

sadness or sorrow, we will ask you how you want to proceed (e.g. sit quietly while they work through the emotion, take a break, continue, or finish up early). **If you feel you need additional support, we will cover the cost of a session with your therapist.** You may also refuse to participate or withdraw from this project at any time. You will still be compensated. We will retain any information you have given to us up to that point. No knowledge or information you share with us will be associated with your identity. Results from all interviews will be aggregated so no one, other than the interviewer, will know what you communicated.

What are the Benefits?

The direct benefits are having your voice heard, increasing the awareness and understanding of abuse in relation to cancer screening, having an influence on cancer screening programs, practice, and policy in Ontario. Sometimes participating in studies also gives one the opportunity to learn from others and clarify our own knowing and thinking, especially as we talk about things. The community will also benefit from your knowledge, which will lead to improved cancer screening.

Do you have any questions?

Would you like to participate? **Yes** **No**

PART II: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Guide/Process:

First, visit to ease into conversation and develop communication style.

Second, introduce study and review consent form.

Third, ask questions.

Throughout the interview, feel free to:

- Empower participant through the value of their participation,
- Use personal sharing (as helpful) to build rapport and trust,
- Provide support and validation to help participant through emotions that arise during interview,
- Pay attention throughout to how participant is feeling
- Check in at end to make sure participant is ok and supported

Questions:

1. What is seeing a doctor, nurse or lab tech like for you?
    - If respondents say it's hard, express understanding. "Yes, that's hard for a lot of people who've been sexually abused. What do you think that doctors

and nurses need to know?"

2. Have you gone for cancer screening?
    - Ask about each of breast, cervical and colon cancer as appropriate.
    - If yes, what helps you go? What could be improved?
    - If no, what stops you from going? What would help you? What could be improved?
3. Is there's anything else that doctors or lab techs could do to make it easier?
    - If the person says, "oh I can't imagine anything it's so hard", then say, "what makes it hard/for you?"
    - In the study so far, sexual abuse has been brought up as a barrier to screening for breast, cervical and colon cancer à most personal sites for screening à what would help abuse survivors get screened
    - Do you think a self-collected HPV test would be helpful if it was available?
4. Is there anything else you want to say or we should know?

Thank you for your time and insights. They are greatly appreciated.

APPENDIX II: Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative studies (COREQ): 32-item checklist

No	Item	Guide questions/description	Details
Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity			
Personal Characteristics			
1.	Interviewer/facilitator	Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group?	LN
2.	Credentials	What were the researcher's credentials? *E.g. PhD, MD*	DG – PhD; LN – Hon BA, Survivor, Educator, International Author and Advocate, Moderator of Survivors' Chat
3.	Occupation	What was their occupation at the time of the study?	DG – associate professor; LN – researcher, writer

No	Item	Guide questions/description	Details
4.	Gender	Was the researcher male or female?	Female
5.	Experience and training	What experience or training did the researcher have?	Both researchers have experience conducting interviews on sensitive sexual health topics
Relationship with participants			
6.	Relationship established	Was a relationship established prior to study commencement?	LN knew several participants prior to the study
7.	Participant knowledge of the interviewer	What did the participants know about the researcher? e.*g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research*	Purpose of the study was reviewed during the consent process
8.	Interviewer characteristics	What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g.	LN is a Survivor

No	Item	Guide questions/description	Details
		Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic	
Domain 2: study design			
Theoretical framework			
9.	Methodological orientation and Theory	What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? *e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis*	Thematic analyisis
Participant selection			
10.	Sampling	How were participants selected? *e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball*	Purposive and snowball

No	Item	Guide questions/description	Details
11.	Method of approach	How were participants approached? e.*g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email*	Email, messaging in survivors' boards, word-of-mouth, participant referral
12.	Sample size	How many participants were in the study?	12
13.	Non-participation	How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons?	None
Setting			
14.	Setting of data collection	Where was the data collected? e.*g. home, clinic, workplace*	On-line and over the phone
15.	Presence of non-participants	Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?	No
16.	Description of sample	What are the important characteristics of the sample? *e.g. demographic data, date*	All participants were female Survivors in a stable situation and ranged in age (40's to

No	Item	Guide questions/description	Details
			70’s), education, geographic location
Data collection			
17.	Interview guide	Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested?	See methods
18.	Repeat interviews	Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many?	No, however, every participant was contacted one week after their interview for member checking
19.	Audio/visual recording	Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data?	See methods
20.	Field notes	Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group?	Yes
21.	Duration	What was the duration of the interviews or focus	Approximately one hour each

No	Item	Guide questions/description	Details
		group?	
22.	Data saturation	Was data saturation discussed?	Yes
23.	Transcripts returned	Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?	See methods
Domain 3: analysis and findings			
Data analysis			
24.	Number of data coders	How many data coders coded the data?	Two
25.	Description of the coding tree	Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?	See Results
26.	Derivation of themes	Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?	Themes derived from data
27.	Software	What software, if applicable, was used to	No software was used

No	Item	Guide questions/description	Details
		manage the data?	
28.	Participant checking	Did participants provide feedback on the findings?	Yes
Reporting			
29.	Quotations presented	Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes / findings? Was each quotation identified? e.*g. participant number*	Yes
30.	Data and findings consistent	Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?	Yes
31.	Clarity of major themes	Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?	Yes, see Results
32.	Clarity of minor themes	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	Yes, see Results