Supplementary Online Content


**eAppendix.** Semistructured Interview Guide: Major Domains and Questions

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eAppendix. Semistructured Interview Guide: Major Domains and Questions

Decision Making Process

- Can you tell me about the most recent time that you had to make a decision with a doctor about whether or not you should have a cancer screening test like a mammogram, colonoscopy, or a blood test for prostate cancer?

- (If not already elicited by above questions) Can you tell me about a time that the decision was made NOT to do (or skip) a cancer screening test, perhaps one that you might have had when younger and healthier?

- I’d like you to think about and discuss whether there are circumstances in which you might choose to no longer undergo cancer screening and what those would be.

Preferences for communication

Up until now, we’ve been talking about how people make decisions about cancer screening tests. Now, I’d like to turn to the conversations that physicians have with patients and family members who are trying to make these decisions.

- Can you tell me about what the doctor said when you were last making a decision about cancer screening?

- (If not already discussed immediately above. Can rephrase to probe for additional examples if some already expressed.) Can you tell me about the conversation that occurred when a doctor recommended forgoing or skipping a cancer screening test?

- In addition to what we’ve already discussed, are there any other things you would like doctors to include when they talk with you about these kinds of cancer screening decisions?
Factors that might influence your decisions

- Each of these are to probe after open-ended inquiry above. Format for asking about each should be like life expectancy item that follows:
  - Would your having a life expectancy of less than 5 years influence your willingness to undergo a cancer screening test?
  - Multiple other medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, high blood pressure, diabetes in addition to memory problems or dementia
  - Severe memory problems that makes the person unable to do basic activities like bathing, dressing, and even eating
  - Living in a nursing home
  - Burden or invasiveness of test – blood test versus mammogram versus colonoscopy
  - Potential risk or complications of test (for example, perforation of the colon from colonoscopy)
  - What if your doctor said that the potential harms or risks of the test are greater than or outweigh the chance of the test being helpful?
  - What if your doctor said that you would not live long enough to benefit from the cancer screening tests?
  - Recommendations by independent experts or governmental panels
  - Statistics that help explain what happens to others who get the test (for example saying that a certain test must be done for 1000 people to save one from dying of the disease).
  - What if your doctor was actively discouraging you from having the tests done?
  - Whether the test would be paid for by insurance