

TOPIC GUIDE: PARTICIPANTS / CARERS

Welcome and context-setting

- Introduce yourself
- Remind the participant and their parent / guardian, 'I work for the University research team, not for the hospital'
- Tell them, 'I want to find out what you thought about the hydrotherapy, so that we can make it better. And I also want to find out how you felt being in the research study so that we can make our next research study really good.'
- 'The interview won't last much more than half an hour'
- Explain that, 'to help us with this study, we are going to make a recording of what we all say today, but nobody will be able to identify you from that recording other than me'.
- ... There are no right or wrong answers
- ... 'Most of the questions are for you [name child], but [parent or guardian] please do chip in if you want and I've got some questions for you at the end'
- Check that everyone is happy to continue and ask if there are any questions.

[To the child]

1. How did you find the hydrotherapy?
Can you tell me what you liked about it?
Can you tell me what you didn't like about it?
How long were the sessions? Was that okay?
What did you think of the people who helped you in the pool?
2. How did you feel after each session? [Probe: Tired? Pain?]
3. If you could go to hydrotherapy twice a week, how would you feel about that?
4. How do you feel now it's the end of the course?
5. How did you hear about this study?
How did you feel about being approached to participate in the study?
How did you feel about letting a computer decide whether you were going to get the hydrotherapy or not?

[To parent and child]

6. One of the people at the hospital sometimes asked you some questions to complete some questionnaires.
What did you think about the number of questions you were asked?
Did you have any trouble answering any of the questions?
We use those questions to find out whether hydrotherapy is good for you and how it makes you feel. Were of any questions good at finding out how hydrotherapy made you feel?

[To parent]

5. How did you feel about the hydrotherapy? **Probe:** Benefits? Downsides? Were the staff okay?
6. How did you find balancing the hydrotherapy with other things. **Probe:** School?
7. How did you get to the hydrotherapy sessions?

How long did it take?

[If using a car] What kind of distance did you have to drive, there and back again for each session?

[If travelling by public transport] Do you mind telling us what you spent getting there and back again for each session?

[To parent and child]

8. Is there anything else either of you would like to say?

Thank you