

Qualitative topic guide for interviews with Occupational Therapists as part of the OTIS study – an Occupational Therapist led home environmental assessment for falls prevention

Invitation telephone call procedure to arrange interview.

1. The qualitative researcher will introduce themselves to the occupational therapist (OT) as part of the OTIS research team.
2. The researcher will ask the OT if they received the invitation email/ letter.
3. The researcher will explain the reason for calling i.e. to see if the OT would like to take part in the interview study.
4. The researcher will answer questions and/or explain the study.
5. The researcher will determine if the occupational therapist would like to take part in the study.
6. If the OT is willing to take part the researcher will thank them and arrange a convenient date and time to be interviewed, and ask them to complete the informed consent form and send a copy to the York Trials Unit. If the OT is not willing to take part, the researcher will thank them for their time.

Interview topic guide for OTIS occupational therapists

Approximately 15 OT who delivered the intervention, 10 clinical leads who run falls prevention services/care of older people services (sampled from services involved in the trial) and five from services external to the trial will be interviewed.

This topic guide summarises the main areas to be explored in each interview about feasibility of providing this intervention on a regular basis identification of the barriers and facilitators, workload implications and readiness to employ this intervention into their regular falls prevention practice and will be based on the NOMAD questionnaire. As with any qualitative interviews, these headings are intended as a starting point to ensure the primary issues are covered, whilst allowing flexibility for new issues to emerge. Preliminary analysis of data from earlier interviews will shape the topics covered in later interviews.

At the beginning of the interview

- The researcher introduces themselves
- The researcher explains the background of the study
- The researcher should emphasise confidentiality, remind the occupational therapist that the interview will be tape recorded and that they can stop the interview at any time if they wish
- The researcher should remind the OT that the information from the research will be written up as a report for the HTA and other reports and publications
- Check if the participant has any questions about the study or interview
- Confirm that the participant is still willing to take part.

The interview questions are grouped into the factors of Normalisation Process Theory Interview

1. Background information (how long have you been in your speciality, years' experience, work base setting etc.)

Coherence

- How much of a problem do you perceive falls to be in general, for older people?
- Were you made aware or were you aware of the purpose of the intervention?
- Are staff in this organisation aware of the purpose of the intervention?

Cognitive Participation (willingness to engage)

- When you delivered the intervention how familiar did it feel?
- What did you think of the intervention?
 - Was it a good idea?
 - Did you think the intervention would work?
 - Did you have any concerns?
- Do you think participating in the intervention is a legitimate part of your role?

Collective Action (the work they do to use the intervention)

- Do you feel the intervention is part of your normal work?
 - Does it differ from your usual way of working?
- What impact did you think the intervention had on your everyday work?

Reflexive Monitoring

- What benefits/disadvantages have you seen to implementing the intervention?
- Have there been any barriers to implementing the intervention?
- Did we give it to the right sort of patients?

- Would anyone else have benefitted/was it better for one group of patients?
- What do you think the patients thought of the intervention?
- Do you think the intervention will become a normal part of your/OT's work?
 - How easy would it be to integrate the intervention into your existing work?
- If the intervention was rolled out into routine practice how do you think it would work?
 - Are there sufficient resources available to support it?
- Are you willing to continue to support the intervention?

End the interview

- Ask the participant if they have any other issues or questions they would like to raise
- Explain again how data will be used and reiterate anonymity and confidentiality
- Clarify what happens next in terms of the OTIS study, and that they can contact the trial manager after the interview should questions arise
- Thank participant for their time