SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDE

Study Title: Perceived Facilitators and Barriers to Advance Care Planning Participation Among Patients Receiving Palliative Care in a Teaching Hospital in Ghana: A Qualitative Descriptive Study.

Introduction to Participants

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview. We would like to understand your experiences, views, and perceptions regarding planning for future healthcare, particularly when a person may become too ill to communicate or make healthcare decisions. There are no right or wrong answers. Your responses will be treated confidentially, and you are free to decline to answer any question or withdraw from the interview at any time.

For this discussion, Advance Care Planning (ACP) refers to the process through which individuals communicate their values, preferences, and wishes regarding future healthcare with healthcare professionals and/or family members, particularly in the event that they become unable to make or communicate decisions for themselves.

Section A: Socio-demographic characteristics of participants

Age……..

Gender……

Diagnosis……

Religion……..

Duration of palliative care……..

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Section B: Interview Questions

1. What is your understanding or experience of planning for your future healthcare in the event that you become too ill to make decisions for yourself?

Probes:

- What have you heard or been told about advance care planning?
- Have you ever discussed your future healthcare preferences with a healthcare professional or family member?

2. What benefits, if any, do you think discussing and planning your future healthcare would have for you and your family?

Probes:

- How might such planning influence decisions about your future care?
- How might it help your family or reduce uncertainty when making healthcare decisions on your behalf?

3. How comfortable or prepared would you feel discussing your wishes and preferences for future healthcare, including decisions that may arise towards the end of life?

Probes:

- What feelings or concerns arise when you think about these discussions?
- What would make you more willing or less willing to participate in such discussions?

4. How do healthcare professionals influence your willingness or ability to participate in discussions about your future healthcare?

Probes:

- How do the way information is explained and the opportunity to ask questions affect your participation?
- What experiences have influenced your trust and comfort in discussing sensitive healthcare decisions with healthcare professionals?

5. What role do your family, cultural values, religious beliefs, or social expectations play in your decisions about planning your future healthcare?

Probes:

- How would you prefer your family to be involved in discussions and decisions about your future care?

- Are there any cultural or religious beliefs that encourage or discourage discussions about future healthcare or death?

6. What challenges or difficulties might prevent you from participating in advance care planning discussions?

Probes:

- Are there any fears, misconceptions, or concerns about discussing future healthcare or death?
- How might the hospital environment, consultation time, privacy, or availability of healthcare professionals affect your participation?

7. What changes or support would you recommend to make it easier for patients receiving palliative care to participate in advance care planning at this hospital?

Probes:

- What improvements would you suggest regarding healthcare-provider communication, family involvement, and documentation of patients' preferences?
- What hospital policies, resources, or procedures would encourage patients to participate in advance care planning?