

Guided interview to transition to the biographical narrative interpretation method (BNIM)

Life story (phase 1): Spontaneous narrative

As you know, I am conducting a project that focuses on people's life stories, in health and illness.

In a moment, I will ask you to tell me your story. You can take your time. I will listen to you without interrupting. I will just take a few notes on what you say, in case I have any questions once you have finished your story.

So, please tell me the story of your life, in health and especially in sickness; all the experiences and events that are important to you personally.

II

Life story (phase 2): exploration of key events/experiences

You said "... " (verbatim quote from the participant)

- Do you remember a particular moment/occasion/period/situation/example when this happened?
- Do you remember how your thoughts and feelings changed during that period?
- Do you remember any more details about... / during that period?
- Would you like to add anything else about this?
- (- How would you explain...)

Additional questions

III

Illness narrative: exploring key experiences & changes

Changes

General/open-ended questions

What was important to you in life before the illness? And now?

- How did you experience/are you experiencing these changes?
- How do you explain these changes?
- How did you cope with them?

Specific areas of change to explore:

Do you feel that your illness has changed your [area...]?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Personality/self-image | • Social role/relationships |
| • Attitudes, values | • Quality of life |
| • Emotions, feelings | |
| • Beliefs, faith, spirituality | |
| • Physical abilities | |
| • Ability to work | |

- How did you experience/are you experiencing these changes?
- How do you explain these changes?
- How did you cope with them?

Key moments

Could you tell me your story from the moment when:

- your symptoms began (before you were diagnosed)
- you were told your current diagnosis
- you were hospitalized
- you were at home during your treatment
- you were referred to palliative care

(How did things go for you after that?)