

Semi-Structured Interview Guide

Study Title: Operationalising infection prevention for caesarean section in two Ghanaian hospitals: a qualitative study of healthcare provider perspectives

Target Participants: Doctors, Medical Officers, Obstetric Care Providers, and Midwives involved in Caesarean Section Care

Purpose: To explore infection prevention practices implemented before, during, and after caesarean section procedures and to understand healthcare providers' perspectives on continuity of postoperative care.

Section A: Participant Information

1. Participant ID
2. Age
3. Sex
4. Professional category
5. Years of professional experience
6. Current role/unit
7. Facility

Section B: General Experience with Caesarean Section Care

8. Can you briefly describe your role in the management of patients undergoing caesarean section?
9. How long have you been involved in caesarean section care?
10. What are some of the common postoperative complications you encounter among caesarean section patients?
11. In your experience, how significant is surgical site infection among caesarean section patients in this facility?

Section C: Preoperative Infection Prevention Practices

12. What infection prevention measures are usually implemented before caesarean section procedures?
13. Can you describe the patient preparation process before surgery?
14. What protocols exist regarding hand hygiene and use of protective clothing in the theatre?
15. How is the surgical site prepared before incision?
16. What role does antibiotic prophylaxis play before surgery?
17. What challenges, if any, affect adherence to preoperative infection prevention practices?

Section D: Intraoperative Infection Prevention Practices

18. How is asepsis maintained during caesarean section procedures?
19. What practices are followed to prevent contamination during surgery?
20. How are surgical instruments managed to ensure sterility?
21. How important is the duration of surgery in infection prevention?
22. Can you describe any standard procedures used to minimise infection risk during surgery?
23. What factors sometimes make it difficult to maintain infection prevention standards during surgery?

Section E: Postoperative Care and Patient Education

24. What postoperative infection prevention measures are implemented after surgery?
25. How are patients educated on wound care before discharge?
26. What instructions are usually given to patients regarding signs of infection?
27. How is postoperative wound monitoring conducted in this facility?
28. What systems are in place for post-discharge follow-up of patients?
29. What challenges affect continuity of postoperative care after discharge?

Section F: Institutional and System-Level Factors

30. How do institutional protocols support infection prevention practices in this facility?
31. Are adequate resources and supplies available to support infection prevention?
32. What role does teamwork play in preventing surgical site infections?
33. What improvements would you recommend to strengthen infection prevention practices in this facility?

Closing

34. Is there anything else you would like to add regarding infection prevention practices for caesarean section?
35. Do you have any recommendations for improving postoperative care and reducing surgical site infections?

Thank you for your participation.