

ID # _____
DATE _____
Interview # _____
Researcher Initials _____
Recorder # _____
Time Begin: _____ Time End _____

## Project: Start

### In-depth Interview guide

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I work as a \_\_\_\_\_ at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview for Project Start. In this study, we want to understand what patients experience for starting chemotherapy whether it was after diagnosis or after surgery.

Interviews will be audio recorded using a digital recorder, and transcribed. All audio files will be destroyed after they are transcribed. None of the information you give me today will have any identifying information about you, we will not use your name during the interview to maintain your confidentiality. Please feel free to answer whatever you would like, and we can skip any questions that you do not want to answer.

Do you have any questions before we get started?

Let's turn on the tape recorder.

*Please remember to record the interview number, recorder number and participant ID number. If at any time the participant wants to take a break or stop, turn off the tape recorder.*

Today's Date is \_\_\_\_\_ this is interview # \_\_\_\_\_, the time is \_\_\_\_\_ Am/PM, and we are completing interview today with participant ID# \_\_\_\_\_.

*The interviewer should listen to everything that the interviewee says, and will prompt the interviewee for more information by asking: "Tell me more about that" and/or "describe that" as needed.*

### **Interviewer: I am going to begin the interview by asking you some questions about your experience with Cancer and treatment.**

1. Can you tell me a little about your cancer treatment experience?
  - a. Prompt for when did they learned/heard that chemotherapy was part of the treatment.

### **Interviewer: Now that you spoke about chemotherapy, I would like to take the focus on that now.**

2. How did you feel when you heard that you had to be treated with chemotherapy?
  - a. Prompt: Describe the emotion associated with chemotherapy (fear, nervousness, confusion, describe emotion)
  - b. Prompt: Do you remember what you did after you found out you had to be treated with chemotherapy? (call somebody, was someone with you) (Assess support)
3. How was the chemotherapy treatment plan explained? (*Interviewer pause here*) Tell me about the information you received regarding chemotherapy (side effects, logistics, rationale)
  - a. Prompt for clarity or confusing information- In your own words why was chemotherapy recommended?
  - b. Prompt for enough, overwhelming information or conflicting information.
  - c. Identify sources of information
  - d. Prompt for cultural views on chemotherapy or concerns associated with chemotherapy.
4. How was the decision of when to start chemotherapy made?
  - a. Prompt for individuals involved in the decision. Who decided when to start chemotherapy? – You? Your doctor? Did anybody help you make that decision?

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5. Did chemotherapy start according to plan?
  - a. Prompt by asking, "Tell me more about that".

***Depending on participant medical records, interviewer should ask either question 6A (Surgery to Chemotherapy) or 6B (Diagnosis to chemotherapy)***

6. **(6.A)** Tell me what happened between surgery (date) \_\_\_\_ and the start of chemotherapy (date) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Tell me about potential medical complications, challenges navigating the health care systems, concerns or fear about chemotherapy (side effects, efficacy)
  
- (6.B)** Tell me what happened between date of your diagnosis (date) \_\_\_\_ and the start of chemotherapy (date) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Tell me about potential medical complications, challenges navigating the health care systems, concerns or fear about chemotherapy (side effects, efficacy)
  
7. Now tell me where there any health conditions affecting the start of chemotherapy?
  - a. Prompt for comorbidities- Tell me about your overall health had an impact in the start of chemotherapy?
  - b. Tell me about any emotional factors that influenced the start of chemotherapy. If so, which emotion, anxiety, fear, depression? Which was the biggest, why?
  
8. Now tell me about any clinic/hospital factors that affected the start of chemotherapy? If so, which ones? Which was the biggest, why?
  - a. Prompt for difficulty scheduling visits, challenges navigating the health care system- Tell me about your experience navigating the health care system (arranging visits, follow-ups, tests, etc.).
  
9. Tell me about any personal reasons that could have affected the start of your chemotherapy. If there was a personal barrier, tell me more about it, if there were several, tell me about the most important one.
  - a. Prompt for other issues including finances, money, job, family, caregiver role, fear of side effects with questions like-Where finances a consideration to start chemotherapy, tell me more about it.
  - b. Prompt for potential role of distance to the hospital, and/or transportation, tell me more about it.
  
10. Now I will read out a list of factor and would like for you to tell me if you feel any of them influence you in getting your chemotherapy started?
  - a. Race/ethnicity
  - b. Language (among Spanish speaking)
  - c. Culture
  - d. Age
  - e. Income
  - f. Religion
  - g. Insurance
  - h. Other

\*\*\*Read all and note yes or no for each factor. Interviewer will then go back and ask for more detail.

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11. If you were helping someone who was about to start chemotherapy, what advice would you give her? What do you think is important to get chemotherapy started?

**Interviewer: The purpose of this study is to understand why women experience a delay when initiating chemotherapy.**

12. There were a total of \_\_\_\_\_ days between your surgery and your chemo. Let's discuss this timing in more detail.
- Tell me about the first conversation you recall about the timing of your chemotherapy treatment with a medical professional.
  - Who did you speak with?
  - What did they tell you about the timing of your treatment?
  - What did you say in response during this conversation?
  - Both during the conversation and after you left the interaction tell me your thoughts/feelings about the timing of your treatment.
  - Thinking just a little bit more about the timing of your chemotherapy treatment; do you wish anything went differently?
  - How could your medical team have handled this situation differently?
  - Were there any hospital staff who could have done anything differently?
  - What could your [\*insurance] provider have done differently?
  - What could you and/or your family/support team have done differently?

13. If you had to do it again, would you do anything different? Is there anything else you would like to share before we complete the interview?

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Those are all the questions I have.

Thank you for helping us understand more about issue women face when starting chemotherapy, and most importantly thank you for your time. If you have any questions in the future, please do not hesitate to contact our research team at [projectstart@mdanderson.org](mailto:projectstart@mdanderson.org).

Interview # \_\_\_\_\_ is now complete and it is \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM.

The following are notes from the interviewer.

*Please remember to turn off recorder, and give participant laptop/iPad to complete measures.*