SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

1. Figure s1. Patient pathway for acute stroke in UK hospitals offering a stroke service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in instances where patients arrive by ambulance
2. Appendix A: Topic guide for focus groups
Figure s1. Patient pathway for acute stroke in UK hospitals offering a stroke service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for those who contact the emergency services.
Appendix A: Study topic guide

COLLABORATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP IN APPLIED HEALTH RESEARCH AND CARE

Research Theme 7: Optimisation of the Management of Stroke and Transient Ischaemic Attack

Interview Topic Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviewer Name</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study ID No.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preamble

- Introduction: Self, including position and attachment to the hospital/environment. Re-iterate that we are researchers for the University of Birmingham and not the clinical team. Therefore, we may ask questions that could be sought in the patients’ medical notes.
- Explain the objective of the research is to interview patient’s to find out their views and experiences following a Stroke or TIA (“mini stroke”). In particular to look for information about the way healthcare services were provided for them, and their experience of what a Stroke or TIA means.
- The patient is to be reminded that the research is voluntary and if they decide not to take part their medical care will not be affected
- Ensure that the patient/patient representative has read and understands the Patient Information Sheet. Ask if there are any further questions.
- Inform the patient of the order of the questions. Identify that they will follow three main aspects within Stroke Care. This includes; Admission, Pre-admission and Post Stroke care. The researcher will ask around 13 questions within these three areas and may use mini questions/prompts.
- The interview is likely to take around 20-40 minutes.
- Identify that the patient/representative has the opportunity to pause or stop the interview at any time.
- The interviewer may need to repeat a summary of certain aspects of the preamble depending on the patients’ cognition.
- Explain that the interviewer may look down at the sheet from time to time to remind themselves of the key questions and that this does not mean they are uninterested.
TOPIC GUIDE FOR PATIENTS PERSPECTIVES IN A HOSPITAL SETTING

Section 1: Pre Admission

1.1 How are you feeling today? (Optional)
   • Better or worse than yesterday?

Can you tell me what happened that brought you into hospital?
   • Emphasise route and how they got there.
   • Paramedic experience (if applicable).
   • Before you came into hospital what was the last thing you remember?
   • Problem/symptoms

What did you do when you were aware of these symptoms?
   • Ignored the symptoms/sought medical advice (NHS Direct/Doctor/Nurse)/talked to a family member/internet?
   • Did somebody else notice the symptoms?
   • Aware of FAST test/campaign?

What did you think was wrong?
   • How did you feel at this time? Not had time to consider feelings/concerned/not worried.
   • Has something similar ever happened before?

What emotions did you feel at this time?
   • Relieved/nervous/uncertainty/surprised/frightened/isolated or supported.

What were your main concerns? Family commitments/work/pets/other responsibilities/long term health implications?

Did you have to make any arrangements before seeking medical advice?
   Pets/children/work/other responsibilities?

Section 2: Admission

How long have you been here?
   In this hospital/ward?

1.3 Can you tell me what happened when you actually came into hospital?
   • Who accompanied you to the hospital?
   • Did you wait in A & E/see the Doctor/have any tests i.e. thrombolysis or scans/straight to the ward?

How did you find the information about what was going on? Did you understand what was happening?

How did you find the care given?
   • Was there anything you thought could have been done better/anything you would have liked but didn’t happen?
   • Medical/Nursing/physio care? Expertise/communication/timing of treatment? How would you describe your hospital stay?

Is there anything about your hospital stay that especially pleased or upset you?

What do you understand is the next step in your care?
   • Further tests/physio/social services/discharge

Section 3: Post Stroke Care

3.1 How do you think this could be improved?
• Personalised care/Support group information/more lifestyle information/more information?

3.2 Can you describe what impact the stroke has had on your life & relationships?
  • How else did your life change after the stroke?
    Partner/children/work/home/pets/friendships

3.3 Overall how do you feel the Stroke Service could be improved? (Of what you have experienced so far)

Concluding remarks

• Any questions about the research study?

• Identify that we may ask for a further follow up interviews to examine patients’ opinions and experiences throughout different periods of their Stroke care if the patient is happy to be re-approached.

• Ensure the respondent is happy with the way the interview has been conducted.

• Remind the patient that all information will be treated in confidence.

• Ask if willing to have a follow up interview.