**Focus Group Guide – Providers**

**Hospice Decision Aid**

**2017**

**Introduction**

Ground Rules

Before we begin, let me mention a few things about how we usually run these groups.

1. NAME and I will be facilitating the group discussion. My role is to ask questions of the group and to encourage everyone to participate. NAME will take notes and remind me if I forget anything.
   1. So, at times, it might seem as though I am cutting you off, and this is not meant to be rude but rather to make sure that we have time for complete discussion of each question.
2. It’s really important that everyone know this: there are no right or wrong answers! Everyone’s comments are valid and important. It is ok to disagree but please be respectful.
3. Sometimes participants bring up sensitive issues during these discussions, and we want to be sure that everyone agrees that anything of a personal nature that is mentioned in this room will NOT be repeated to others outside of this discussion group.
4. We are using 2 recorders to record our discussion. To ensure your privacy. We’ll be using only first names in the group discussion, and when we put together the results from all the groups, we won’t include any names at all.
   1. It is very important that we speak one at a time, so that the recorder picks up everything that is said.
   2. Please try to limit side conversations.
   3. If anyone is not willing to give their consent to being recorded, they may be excused from the group.
5. We also have note cards for each of you. I will collect these at the end of the session. If there is any feedback that you would prefer not to share out loud, that you prefer not to be recorded, or that you didn’t have a chance to say, please write it down on these cards and then give them to us after the focus group is over. *(Pass out notecards.)*
6. We plan to be finished with our discussion by 10:30 at the latest. Once the discussion has ended, you will receive a $25 Target gift card as our thank-you for participating in the group. We will need to get your signature to show that you received the gift card.

Questions

Does anyone have any questions about anything I’ve just said? *(Wait for responses.)*  
Are you ready to get started? *(Wait for affirmation.)* Okay, great. Here we go!

**(Start recording)**

State “Hospice Provider Focus Group #XX,” the date, and the location of focus group.

Question Guide

**Research question:**

**What information about hospice care is important to patients, caregivers, and providers and should be included in a hospice decision aid?**

Before we begin, I want to tell you how we are defining “hospice” so we are all on the same page. I’ve written it up here so you can refer to it as needed: “DEFINITION.”

“Hospice is a treatment philosophy. Its goal is to provide care that focuses on providing comfort to seriously ill patients. Hospice does not cure disease but provides pain management and emotional and spiritual support to patients and loved ones.”

**Hospice Experience/Definition**

1. Let’s go around the room and introducing ourselves. Please tell the group (a) your first name, (b) what organization you’re with, and (c) what your role is

2. How do you and/or your institution define hospice?

**Hospice Timing**

3. At what point do you think it’s appropriate to introduce hospice care as a treatment option for a patient?

Probes:

1. In your opinion, do patients generally learn about hospice too early, too late, or at about the right time? In your opinion, who should introduce hospice care as an option to a patient?
2. How do you make a decision re: when to engage the family vs. the patient
3. What might make this discussion easier for you?

**Challenges/Myths**

5. What are challenges/barriers/myths in helping people make the decision about hospice care? What helps get people into hospice care?

**Informational and Decisional Materials**

6. What materials or resources do you recommend to patients and loved ones who want to learn more about hospice? What’s missing?

1. What resources or materials are available to share with patients/families?

7. Is there anything else you think we need to know, anything we haven’t asked about that would be important for us to understand about hospice decision making?

Conclusion

Any final comments before we close? I want to thank you again for agreeing to be part of our focus group today.

**(Stop Recording)**