

SMILE

Specialist Medical Intervention & Lightning Evaluation

INTERVIEW TOPIC GUIDE

These questions will be used as prompts to ensure all important areas are covered

Welcome, introduction, stress confidentiality. Discuss consent, sign form or check continues to be happy with consent.

After assessment & before randomisation

- 1. Can you talk me through your initial appointment with the research nurse?**
Prompts: What was said, did you understand what was being said? Feelings?
- 2. What were your initial thoughts about the study?**
Prompts: What did you think when you were told about it? Feelings? Worries? Expectations?
- 3. Did you know anything about the Lightning Process before this initial appointment (for first interview only)?**
Prompts: How/ who? What did you think? What information?
- 4. What did you think about the information you were given about the study?**
Prompts: What information did you get – oral and written? Did you read it? Understand it? Did it give you enough information/too much? Were there things you thought they had forgotten to include?
- 5. Have you found out any information about the Lightning Process since?**
Prompts: Why? How? What did you find? What did you think?
- 6. What are your thoughts at this stage on taking part or not? Why?**
NB - Stress that they're not being asked at this stage but that we want to gauge their thoughts, stress also that it makes no difference to the interviewer
- 7. If you were to take part, would you have a preference for one of the interventions?**
Prompts: Why? Issues over participation? Engagement? What would you do if allocated the other intervention?
- 8. What do you think about having treatments allocated at random, i.e. by chance?**
Prompts: Why is it done? How do you feel about this way of deciding what treatment you'll get? Is there a better way? Do you think you'll be happy to be randomised? Do you think you're likely to get one intervention rather than the other? Why?

9. You have now done some questionnaires at follow up. What did you/your child think about the questions you were asked?

Prompts: Were there any particularly difficult ones? What did you think about the HADS/POMS inventory? Would you leave some out? Other areas that should be covered?

After randomisation & before interventions

1. Can you tell me what happened when the research nurse visited and explained about randomisation?

Prompts: What did she say? Understandable? What did you think? Did you understand what was going to happen?

2. What did you think before randomisation?

Prompts: Were you happy with the process? Did you understand what was going to happen and why?

3. Did you agree to randomisation or not? Why?

4. What did you think when you got your intervention allocation?

Prompts: How did you feel? Was it what you expected/wanted? Expectations of intervention? What have you done since then?

5. You have now done some questionnaires at follow up. What did you/your child think about the questions you were asked?

Prompts: Were there any particularly difficult ones? What did you think about HADS/POMS inventory? Would you leave some out? Other areas that should be covered?

After intervention

1. Tell me about the intervention you received?

Prompts: What happened? What was good/bad? What would you change? Venue? Structure of sessions? Language used? Was it as expected?

2. Do you think you/your child have/has learnt anything from it, if so what?

Prompts: About CFS/ME, themselves, self management?

3. What has happened after the intervention?

Prompts: How have you/they done? What are you/they doing? Feeling?

4. What do you think now about being randomised?

Prompts: Would you do it again? What do you think about the study for others?

5. You have now done some questionnaires at follow up. What did you/your child think about the questions you were asked?

Prompts: Were there any particularly difficult ones? What did you think about the HADS/POMS inventory? Would you leave some out? Other areas that should be covered?