Implementation and Evaluation of a Referral Pathway for people with Lung cancer in Townsville health service district.

Semi-structured Interview guide for Specialists

Introduction: The purpose of this interview is to gather your thoughts on the Townsville Lung Cancer Referral Pathway. This interview will take about 20 minutes. The interview will be audiotaped and transcribed to assist with later data analysis. All names will be removed from typing and your opinions will remain anonymous. Are you ready to start the interview now?

Demographics:

☐ Hospital-based specialist. Speciality: __________________________

How long you have been practicing:

   in Australia? ________
   in THHS? __________

1. What is your opinion about Townsville lung cancer referral pathway?

   In your opinion, are there benefits to using the referral pathway for people suspected with lung cancer?
   
   Yes / No

   If yes:

   What are the benefits of using the referral pathway for yourself as a clinician?

   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

Discipline specific prompts below (for those having difficulty to answer)

For oncologists and thoracic surgeons:

☐ seeing less of undiagnosed cases and benign cases.
☐ fewer advanced cancers
patients and family have been explained why they are seeing the oncologist

For respiratory physicians:

☐ GPs referring patients promptly, without delay
☐ more appropriate workup for patients prior to referral.
☐ Less number of patients with benign conditions referred for urgent review.
☐ Fewer patients diagnosed via ED route

2. What about benefits for patients and their carers by using the referral pathway?

Prompts only- timely appointments, earlier diagnosis, more information about their condition, less anxiety, more satisfied.

   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

3. In your opinion, has introduction of the Townsville Lung Cancer Referral Pathway led to improved referral patterns from GPs directly to respiratory clinics?
4. What type of feedback do you give to the referring GPs about the results of investigations and plan of management?

*Please prompt for explanation.*

5. Do you have any suggestions to improve the referral patterns of people suspected with lung cancer?

*Prompts*
- Suggestions to provide better and tailored information.
- Lung cancer care co-ordinators/lung cancer specialist nurses.
- Electronic referral

6. We are also interested in including tele-health consultations in the lung cancer referral pathway. What is your experience of using tele-health to communicate with people being investigated for lung cancer?

6a. What is your opinion about using video-linked consultations or telephone consultations to communicate with people with possible lung cancer or their carers?

*Prompts:*
- What is your opinion about use of video-linked consultations to discuss sensitive issues or break bad news?
- What is your opinion about use of telephone consultations to discuss sensitive issues or break bad news?

7. Do you have any other comments you would like to add about the Townsville Lung Cancer Pathway before we conclude this interview?