

Supplemental Digital Appendix 1

Interview Guide, From a Study of Residents Dealing with Patient Death During International Health Electives Through the Mayo International Health Program (MIHP), 2001–2017

Introduction:

What is your name, your program/department, and your current level of training?

What prompted you to pursue an international health experience?

[Prompt] Have you done one before? If so, how is this different?

Can you describe your experience for me?

[Prompt] Where did you go?

[Prompt] In what settings did you mainly work?

[Prompt] How did you spend your time?

How was your experience with providing medical care abroad? What were the main challenges? What did you find rewarding?

Experiences with Death and Dying:

I want to transition now to focus on discussing about your experiences with dealing with death and dying during your MIHP rotation. Can you tell me about that?

Thinking back to your MIHP experience, can you describe one or more instances in which you cared for a patient who was dying?

During your MIHP experience, how often did you deal with dying patients? How did this affect you during that experience?

[Prompt] Do you feel that you grew more calloused or sensitized to it? Why or why not?

When you compare your MIHP experience to your experience during the rest of your training, what strikes you most about dealing with dying patients?

[Prompt] What are some similarities in how patients and family members dealt with death?

[Prompt] What are some similarities in how the national physicians and you dealt with death?

[Prompt] What are some differences in how patients and family members dealt with death?

[Prompt] what are some differences in how the national physicians and you dealt with death?

Reflecting on your MIHP experience:

What cultural differences associated with expectations and beliefs dealing with dying patients?

[Prompt] How did those cultural differences affect your care for dying patients?

Positively

or negatively? Why?

[Prompt] How did you deal with those cultural differences?

[Prompt] How did the national health care providers approach these differently?

How did the availability of resources affect your care of dying patients?

[Prompt] How did you deal with death that could have been prevented if adequate resources were available?

[Prompt] What, if any difficulties did you face with rationing care/triaging limited resources?

[Prompt] Did limited resources produce moral/ethical dilemmas related to end of life care?

[Prompt] What, if any, difficulties did you have with lack of closure surrounding cause of death?

What positive experiences did you have with providing end of life care?

[Prompt] What was done well with respect to providing end of life care?

[Prompt] What did you learn about providing care abroad/how will it impact care you provide in the future?

How have your attitudes toward death and dying changed as a result of this experience?

Preparation and Support:

How were you prepared to deal with death and dying on your MIHP rotation?

[Prompt] How were you prepared by Mayo before you left?

[Prompt] How were you prepared by your host institution?

[Prompt] What support were you given by your host institution for dealing with death?

What preparation or support would have been helpful for you to deal with death and dying, either prior to leaving or during your MIHP experience?

Re-entry:

What was your experience upon returning home?

[Prompt] Did you have any difficulties with transitioning back to providing care at your home institution?

[Prompt] How did you cope with those difficulties?

What support would have been helpful to you in dealing with re-entry?

Summary:

Of everything we talked about, what is the most important point you want us to understand regarding your experience dealing with dying patients on your MIHP rotation?

What advice would you have for future MIHP residents regarding dealing with death and dying?

What suggestions do you have for the MIHP regarding preparing and supporting residents to deal with dying patients before, during or after their rotations?