

Supplementary Table 1. Patient Interview Guide

Construct	Questions
Treatment decision making	<p>Can you tell me about a situation you have been in where you needed to decide between two different treatments?</p> <p>What did you need to know about each treatment before making a decision about which one to choose?</p>
Understanding and attitudes towards randomisation	<p><i>[Lay description about randomisation using analogy of 'pulling names out of a hat']</i></p> <p>Why do you think the researchers pulled names out of a hat like this?</p> <p>What do you think of this system of deciding who gets what?</p>
Understanding towards placebo/placebo effect	<p><i>[Lay description about placebo-drug trial]</i></p> <p>Why do you think the researchers made one of the pills a sugar pill? What do you think of this?</p> <p>What if someone given the sugar pill felt better - can you think of an explanation for this?</p> <p>What do you think researchers can learn from a study like this?</p> <p>Do you think you would ever agree to be part of a study like this? Why/why not?</p>
Attitude towards placebo surgery	<p>Similar studies can also be performed in surgery, where researchers compare real surgery to a placebo or pretend operation.</p> <p>What do you think about that? Can you tell me how you think that might work?</p> <p><i>[Lay description of placebo surgery trial using knee arthroscopy trials as example, including explanation for rationale that these procedures had never been robustly tested]</i></p> <p>How do you feel about studies like this?</p> <p>Why do you think that people who received the pretend surgery also felt better?</p> <p>What do you think researchers can learn from a study like this?</p> <p>How would you feel if you were asked to be part of a study like this? Would you consider taking part? Why/Why not?</p>