

A.5 Qualitative topic guides

Topic guide for health care practitioners and program managers

This tool will be revised depending on the findings from the survey and the areas we feel need emphasis.

Perceptions on the role of information

1. Let us start by tapping into your thoughts on the role of information. In your daily work to improve health, do you think it is important to rely on information before you make a decision?
 - Probe: Why is it important or not important?

Practical use of information at work

Now, we would like to learn about your actual experiences with using information to support your work.

2. Is it always possible to rely on information during your work? Why or why not?
 - Probe: how easy or difficult it is to get information that you need?
 - Probe: Which sources are easier to access than others? Is this always the case?
3. Please share an experience where you made a decision based on information.
 - Probe: What kind of information did you use? *(For instance, was it written evidence, verbal from a leader, etc?)* Why did you use that information then?
 - Probe: How long did it take you to make the decision?

Barriers and enablers

4. Now, let's discuss the challenges you face in using information for implementing interventions to improve health.

You may have already shared some of these, but do you have any others you would like to mention?

 - Probe: What about time, leadership involvement, support, relevance, ease of understanding the evidence, access, budget limitations?
5. What would make it easy to always use information / evidence during your work, as you improve health?
 - Probe: Support within the workplace; support to individuals

Recommendations

6. Finally, please suggest ways in which the use of information in your work can be made easier. How can we put into practice what is known to work?

Thank you for participating! Your views will inform the Lancet Commission on Evidence-Based Implementation in Global Health

Topic guide for policy makers

This tool will be revised depending on the findings from the survey and the areas we feel need emphasis

Perceptions on the role of information

1. Let us start by tapping into your thoughts on the role of information. In your work in the health policy arena, do you think it is important to rely on information before you make a decision?
 - Probe: Why is it important or not important?

Practical use of information as a policy maker

Now, we would like to learn about your actual experiences with using information to support your work as a policy maker.

2. Is it always possible to rely on information during policy development? Why or why not?
 - Probe: how easy or difficult it is to get information that you need?
 - Probe: Which sources are easier to access than others? Is this always the case?
3. Please share an experience where you made a decision based on information.
 - Probe: What kind of information did you use? *(For instance, was it written evidence, verbal from a leader, etc?)* Why did you use that information then?
 - Probe: How long did it take you to make the decision?

Barriers and enablers

4. Now, let's discuss the challenges you face in using information to support policy development.

You may have already shared some of these, but do you have any others you would like to mention?

 - Probe: What about time, leadership involvement, support, relevance, ease of understanding the evidence, access, budget limitations?
5. What would make it easy to always use information / evidence during your work, as you improve health?
 - Probe: Support within the workplace; support to individuals

Recommendations

6. Finally, please suggest ways in which the use of information can be made easier for policy makers. How can we put into practice what is known to work?

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Topic guide for health information experts or data analysts / technical advisers / researchers and academics

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Perceptions on attitudes towards information

1. Do you think that implementers in the health sector believe in using information or evidence to support the decisions they make to improve health?
 - Probe: Please explain your answer

Practical use of information at work

2. From your interactions and work with implementers in the health sector, can you share examples where they have used information as they undertake various interventions?
 - Probe: Did they ask for the information, or did you take the initiative to give them the information yourself?

Barriers and enablers

3. What do you think are the challenges in using information for implementing interventions to improve health?

You may have already shared some of these, but do you have any others you would like to mention?

 - Probe: What about time, leadership involvement, support, relevance, ease of understanding the evidence, access, budget limitations?
4. What would make it easy for implementers in the health sector to use information / evidence during their work to improve health?
 - Probe: Support within the workplace; support to individuals

Recommendations

5. Finally, please suggest ways in which the use of information in your work can be made easier. How can we put into practice what is known to work?

Thank you for participating! Your views will inform the Lancet Commission on Evidence-Based Implementation in Global Health