

Appendix 1

Interview guide

Research question(s) for the patient interviews

How would this patient like their general practitioner (GP) and/or practice nurse to talk to them about alcohol?

What reflections does this patient have on the suggestions made by clinicians and practices for increasing brief interventions for alcohol?

Opening

What are your thoughts on GPs asking their patients about their drinking?

(Ask whether it's important to ask and part of a GP's role.)

Do you have a general practice that you usually go to? Can you tell me a little bit about it?

(Ask about type and size – eg solo, group, corporate; numbers of GPs; bulk billing.)

Transition

I'd really like to hear about a time that a GP or general practice nurse talked to you about alcohol.

I don't really want to know about your own alcohol use. Just if you could focus on what it was like being asked about drinking alcohol by your GP or nurse.

(Remind the participant not to use the clinician's names in these descriptions.)

- Do you remember who started the conversation?
- What made it easier for that conversation to happen?
- Did anything make it difficult or uncomfortable?

If patient has never been asked – Are you surprised that a GP or practice nurse has never asked you about drinking alcohol? Why do you think it hasn't been discussed?

Key questions

Now we've been thinking in this research about how we can increase conversations about alcohol in general practice.

Can we ask you what you think about some ideas we have for increasing these conversations?

Waiting room

- When you arrive at your GP, what do you think about filling out surveys in GP waiting rooms?
- Have you ever seen posters in the GP waiting room? Did you find these helpful? Have you ever talked to a GP about something you saw in the waiting room?

Consultation

- What do you think about your GP giving you written information about alcohol use?
- Perhaps GPs could give patients leaflets with websites or apps about alcohol. What would you think about an approach like that?
- Do you have any thoughts about the nurse at the practice being involved in talking about alcohol?

At home

- If your GP thought that your drinking was causing harm to your health, would you use a toolkit that they gave you? It would have factsheets and ideas for cutting back on drinking.

Ending question

Is there anything we've missed that you'd like to add?

What was the most important thing that we discussed today?