Appendix 1: Interview guide

Introduction

Introduction researcher:

Good morning/afternoon. Thank you for agreeing to this interview. I am [name], a researcher at AIGHD.

Aim of the interview: This interview aims to explore your perspective on influenza vaccination. The findings will help the Amsterdam UMC better understand vaccine acceptance and hesitancy among healthcare workers and how current policies may be improved. There are no right or wrong answers.

Consent to record the interview: With your consent, the interview will be recorded, anonymised, and transcribed verbatim, after which the recording will be deleted. The data will be kept securely. Anything you mention in this interview cannot be traced back to you personally. Do you permit this interview to be recorded?

<If so, start the recording in Microsoft Teams.>

Just to confirm the recording: Do you permit to record this conversation?

Main questions

General information

- What is your role at the Amsterdam UMC? (doctor, nurse, trainee)?
- How long have you been working in the healthcare sector
 - Specifically at the Amsterdam UMC?
- What is your age?
- How familiar are you with the influenza vaccine and its mechanism?
- What is your opinion on influenza vaccination?
 - Has your opinion on the influenza vaccine changed over the years (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic)?

Risk perception

- Have you ever contracted influenza?
 - If so, have you been tested?
- What do you know about the risks of influenza? (e.g., pneumonia, heart infections, strokes, etc.)
 - What are the risks for you?
 - What are the risks for your patients?
- How do you protect yourself and your patients from influenza?
- What are your thoughts about the effectiveness of the vaccine in preventing infection or serious illness?
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages of vaccination?
- Do you give personal advice to patients about vaccination, and if so, what factors influence the content of your advice?
 - Do you feel confident when giving this advice?
- Do you believe vaccines are safe?
 - Do you have any personal experiences related to this?

Accessibility

- Have you been offered the influenza vaccine in the past year?
 - How have were you informed about it and what information did you receive?

- Did you take advantage of this offer and receive the influenza vaccine last year/season?
 - If yes, can you share your experiences with the vaccination process? (side effects, positive effects?)
 - If no, what factors contributed to your decision not to get vaccinated against influenza?
- Did you use any other sources to inform yourself? (Fellow doctors, health authorities, health agencies, medical publications, internet, pharmaceutical companies, friends and family, others (please specify which)?
 - Whom do you trust the most for this information?
- In your opinion, does your workplace provide sufficient advice and information about vaccination?
- How easy or difficult was it for you to get the vaccine? (Consider practical obstacles)
- What campaign strategies were used within the Amsterdam UMC?
 - Do you think these were sufficient?

Attitude and experience

- Why do you think the influenza vaccine is offered to you?
 - Why is vaccination important for healthcare workers?
- In your opinion, should healthcare workers be vaccinated against influenza every season?
- How do you feel about adult immunization? (e.g., Hepatitis B, DTP, etc.)
 - Why have you or have you not received these vaccinations?
- How do you feel about the Hepatitis B vaccination? (as this is mandatory for a lot of healthcare workers)

Statistics

• Do you know what the current vaccination coverage is among healthcare workers in the Netherlands?

Currently, only 13-28% of healthcare workers in the Netherlands are vaccinated against influenza, while the European Union and WHO target is 75%

• What are your thoughts about these figures?

Closing questions

- What do you need to get vaccinated next year?
- How do you think we could increase the influenza vaccination rate among healthcare workers?
 - What tools, training, information, or communication skills do you think are needed to improve vaccination rates?
- Which organizations should support this?
 if mandatory vaccination is not mentioned>.
- Do you think that making compulsory influenza vaccination could contribute to achieving higher rates?

Conclusion

Additions:

- Is there anything else you would like to say that we have not yet discussed?
- Do you have any other comments/questions?

Conclusion:

I would like to thank you once again for taking part in this study and sharing your
experiences of influenza vaccination. Your insights are valuable to us. Have a
lovely day!