

## Supplementary File A

### Semi-structured interview guide

My name is (INSERT Study Investigator and/or Moderator name). Thank you for participating in our research. As this session will be audio recorded and to make it easier for transcribing, can I kindly ask to switch mobile phones to silent. You have been invited to participate in this study as you are a health professional looking after people taking opioid analgesics.

The purpose of today's discussion is to understand your perspectives on the scope and purpose of developing opioid deprescribing guidelines to inform practice on how to stop taking opioids. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions I am about to ask. I understand that you will have differing points of view so please feel free to share your point of view even if it differs from what others have said. If you want to follow up on something that has been said, would like to agree, disagree or give an example, please feel free to do so, however please make sure you allow your fellow participants to be heard. Don't feel like you have to respond all the time, I am here to ask questions, listen and make sure everyone has a chance to share. I will moderate the discussion to make sure I hear from everyone. Let's begin by having each person introduce themselves and your position.

**Opening question:** Think back to a recent patient you have recently seen taking opioids. How do you currently approach medication management in patients taking opioids?

#### Questions for health care professionals:

- What do you think it's the most common patient population (or is there more than one?) likely to experience opioid related problems?
- What are your main concerns when continuing opioids for a patient?
- How do you know when to decrease your patients' opioid dose?
- How do you manage/make decisions to prescribe or deprescribe a certain opioid?
- Do you consider patient's condition (e.g. acute versus chronic pain) or do you consider the duration of use and/or use of other medications?
- Do you prioritise specific opioids when deciding to prescribe or deprescribe?
- Do you commonly refer your patient to specialists and other allied health professionals to deprescribe opioids?
- Do you currently use any resources to guide your decision to stop certain opioids for your patients?
- Do you commonly offer non-pharmacological strategies when you recommend stopping opioids?
- Would you find it useful if you had specific deprescribing guidelines to inform your decision to stop certain opioids for your patients?
- What patient/clinical outcomes should be considered when assessing effectiveness of deprescribing?
- What types of deprescribing interventions you think should be included?
- Who do you think should be involved in developing these guidelines (e.g. individual with specific expertise), and how should the evidence be assessed/implemented and who should do it?