**Appendix 1: Example of topic guides**

The topic guide was iteratively refined as the study progressed to pursue emerging themes. Examples of topic guides 1 and 7 are presented below.

**Table of topic guide 1**

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| --- | --- |
| **Question number** | **Question** |
|  | How do you think prescribing for patient’s over 65 years differs from prescribing for the general adult population? |
|  | What resources would you use for prescribing in this group of patients? |
|  | What are the challenges you face to prescribing for those over 65? |
|  | What are the adverse consequences to prescribing to those over 65? |
|  | Do you think that prescribing in general practice can impact on your relationship with other healthcare professionals? Can you think of an example? |
|  | Would you use other healthcare professionals as resources when prescribing for this group of patients? Would you seek the opinion of other healthcare professionals?  When is this useful?  When is it not useful? |
|  | What kind of strategies do you think could assist your prescribing in general practice?  What do you think of Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS)? |
|  | How could the pharmacist have a role in optimising prescribing in primary care? |
|  | How could pharmacist’s and GPs work together when it comes to prescribing in ≥ 65 years? |
|  | Any further comments? |

**Table of topic guide 7**

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| --- | --- |
| **Question number** | **Question** |
|  | How do you think prescribing for patient’s over 65 years differs from prescribing for the general adult population? |
|  | As you know, the population of older people is increasing. How do you think this is going to affect your role as a GP in the future? |
|  | From your experience does your surrounding environment impact on your prescribing for older patients? Can you give an example? Prompts e.g. Time constraints, patient education etc |
|  | When you are prescribing for older patients, what are you thinking about and considering? Some GPs have mentioned that prescribing benzodiazepines or sleeping tablets can be an issue? |
|  | What sources of information would you use for prescribing in older patients? Where would you look for prescribing information? E.g. guidelines |
|  | Would you use other healthcare professionals as resources when prescribing for this group of patients? Would you seek the opinion of other healthcare professionals?  When is this useful?  When is it not useful? |
|  | Do you think that prescribing in general practice can impact on your relationship with other healthcare professionals? If so, how? |
|  | Do you think that other healthcare professionals form a judgement on your prescribing for older patients? Is this a concern for you? |
|  | How would you feel if a prescribing mistake was highlighted to you by another healthcare professional? Would you feel comfortable changing it? |
|  | What would you think of an educational presentation delivered by community pharmacists to GPs to highlight their prescribing patterns in primary care? Would you find it beneficial? E.g. Academic detailing? |
|  | How could the community pharmacist have a role in optimising prescribing in primary care? E.g. carrying out medication reviews. |
|  | How would you feel if the role of the community pharmacist was expanded in primary care? |
|  | How could pharmacist’s and GPs work together when it comes to prescribing in those ≥ 65 years? |
|  | Any further comments? |