

## **Appendix 1: Interview Guide**

### ***Introduction***

Thank you for agreeing to this interview. To give you some background, this is a project being undertaken by HealthCareCAN on behalf of the Canadian Frailty Network (CFN). It is being done with the help of an advisory committee comprised of experts in frailty and policy in Canada that include the Canadian Nurses Association, Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Pharmacists Association, and the Canadian Hospice and Palliative Care Association. This study aims to assess the policy and economic considerations, both from within Canada and internationally, to be taken into account around frailty screening that will benefit patients, families and the broader health system. CFN has also commissioned four other complementary papers including: the social aspects of frailty; ethical and legal implications; the end of life/advance care planning implications of frailty; and, frailty assessment tools. We realize that there are over 25 validated screening tools that exist for assessing frailty in the Canadian health system and that there is no common language being used, and this will be explored during the interview. We see this as an opportunity to learn about how different jurisdictions and the challenges they face around frailty especially the policy and economic considerations. We believe screening for frailty will help improve health care outcomes and patients in Canada.

Fifteen key informant interviews are being conducted in January-February 2016 to gather expert insight on what policy changes are needed to scale up successful frailty screening practices to drive innovation and change. We are gathering perspectives from patients, providers, researchers and policy makers in various contexts. A literature review is also being conducted to accompany this data. Your individual responses are confidential and only aggregate results will be contained in a draft report with recommendations outlined.

A webinar will be held in March 2016 to discuss the key findings and dialogue on potential policy instruments. A final report will be produced in English and submitted to the May 12/13 CFN Forum, and will be shared with you.

**Section A: Key Informant Interview Profile (5 minutes with introduction)**

Name of interviewer(s):

Name of interviewee(s), title(s), organization name, and province:

Date of interview:

---

**Section B: Background and Context (5 minutes)**

1. Briefly explain your *role and experience* with frailty and/or frailty assessment tools (Probe with selection criteria of: extensive knowledge of Canadian health policy/ health economic and/or frailty issues; stakeholder group such as policy maker, research, provider or patient; geographical perspective; and macro/meso/micro viewpoint)?
2. What do you see are some of *policy and economic forces* shaping our focus on the frail elderly both now and in the future within the Canadian health care system?

**Section C: Challenges and Opportunities (10 minutes)**

3. Are you aware of any *successful frailty screening practices* being used in Canada or internationally (Probe: name of initiative, barriers and facilitators to its success, and other successful tools used for other conditions like Ottawa Ankle Rules)?
4. How should we *identify and screen* for the frail elderly (Probe: common definition, clinical setting, criteria/guidelines for screening, other factors for risk such as overmedication).
5. *Who should be able to apply* the screening tools (Probe: type of health provider, in what model, and in what context)?

**Section D: Policy Instruments (15 minutes)**

6. What were some of the *policy changes or instruments* you believe need to be implemented to successfully scale up frailty screening practices (Probe: reimbursement and funding models, financing options such as public vs private, tax policy, harmonization with regulatory/legislative instruments, training/education, technology)?
7. How should we *evaluate the impact* of frailty screening (Probe: health policy, cost/benefit, who should oversee, measures to ensure right screening tool is used in the right setting)
8. Any other *challenges and opportunities* that we didn't discuss around policy instruments to screen for the frailty?

9. Are there any *articles, reports, publications or organizations* you would suggest we review for this endeavour?