

Additional file 1: Interview Guide

Part of the interview guide / theme / technique	Interview questions	AIM: What should be dealt with
Introduction	Could you describe a typical day here in [name of the institution]?	• Ice breaker • Getting to know daily life structure in prison
Social Network	Are you close to anybody within the institution? • Staff • other inmates Do you keep in touch with anybody outside of the institution?	• How are relationships with others within the institution perceived? • Also less contact is usually available to the outside world – how is this perceived, did they lose relationships, do they keep them?
Transition from introductory to main part	What do you think about the mental health care services in [name of the institution]?	• Get their general (very brief) impression about how mental health services are, how they feel taken care of. • The goal is to ease into questioning them about psychological disorders (since it's a sensitive topic) and the treatments they receive for that.
Diagnoses	What kind of mental health disorders do you have? • How long have you had this disorder for? • Since when have you received treatment for your disorder?	• What is the subjective disease model of the patient?
Prison Mental Health Care Services	When did you first get in touch with the mental health care service? • How? • Who? • Why?	• Elaborate access to mental health care services. • How do they approach the staff (through nurses, regular consultations by psychiatric services, security staff...)? • How are decisions taken to provide access to certain healthcare resources?
Treatments	What type of treatments do you receive for your mental disorder?	• Equivalence of care

	• In the institution • Before imprisonment • Any differences? • Frequency - how often? • Which specialists did you meet? • Duration of a session?	• Differences between mental health care inside and outside of prison. • Any continuity given? (same therapist? Contact between prison and outside mental health care staff?) • What is considered as treatment in the view of the patient – what isn't?
	Do you think that anything has changed about your mental health while being here? • Do you feel any improvements or degradation about your mental health issues? • What treatment helps/has helped you most? • Are you satisfied with these treatments? • What treatment/activity would you most preferably drop? • Do you think that you're treated differently because of your age?	• Explore what participant views as most helpful about treatment received. • What is seen as most useless?
	• Do you talk to anybody of the other inmates about being in touch with mental health services? • Has anything changed since you contacted the mental health service/you entered the institution?	• Explore possible threat of stigma, mobbing, and exclusion.
	If you could change anything about the treatment you receive, what would it be? What type of additional health care would you need?	• Possible improvement options that the offenders see • Their perspective on the quality of MH care
	Elicitation Technique (see Figure1) Where do you place the mental health professional? Where do you place the person conducting the forensic psychiatric expertise?	• How do they relate to mental health professionals? • The MHP's dual role, trust and therapeutic relationship are important aspects in mental health care – use elicitation technique to evoke these issues.

Locus of Control	What do you do yourself about the mental health issues that you have? What influences the progress of your therapy? Who influences the progress of your therapy?	• How much self-efficacy do they experience? • What do they see as most important therapeutic effect? • What is the most important facilitator? • Sentencing limitation – indeterminate character of the sentence
Risk Assessment	How do you experience the forensic risk assessment procedures? From your point of view, what influences the decision on your progression within the institution and the time of release?	• How do they experience the risk assessment process conducted by the psychiatrists? • How do they perceive indeterminate character of the sentence?
Aging	What is it like to be here? What is it like to become older here? What is most challenging concern for you in your life right now? • Over your course of the stay in your institution, what has changed for you? Do you face different challenges now? • Do you think that aging has an impact on your everyday life in the institution? Is the prison environment adapted to people of your age and older? • What would you improve or need?	• What are the challenges of the older offender population? • The open question shall give room for them to relate to the aspect that is most important to them • How does aging shape their prison experience?
	What plans do you have with your life?	• What do they hope for? • What plans do they have for the future and how does the older age possibly affect this? • Do they have any future plans for after imprisonment?

Closing up	How would you advise a younger inmate who asks you how to deal with mental illness?	Enter third person to try to elicit a meta-description of themselves and their life living with a mental disorder within prison.
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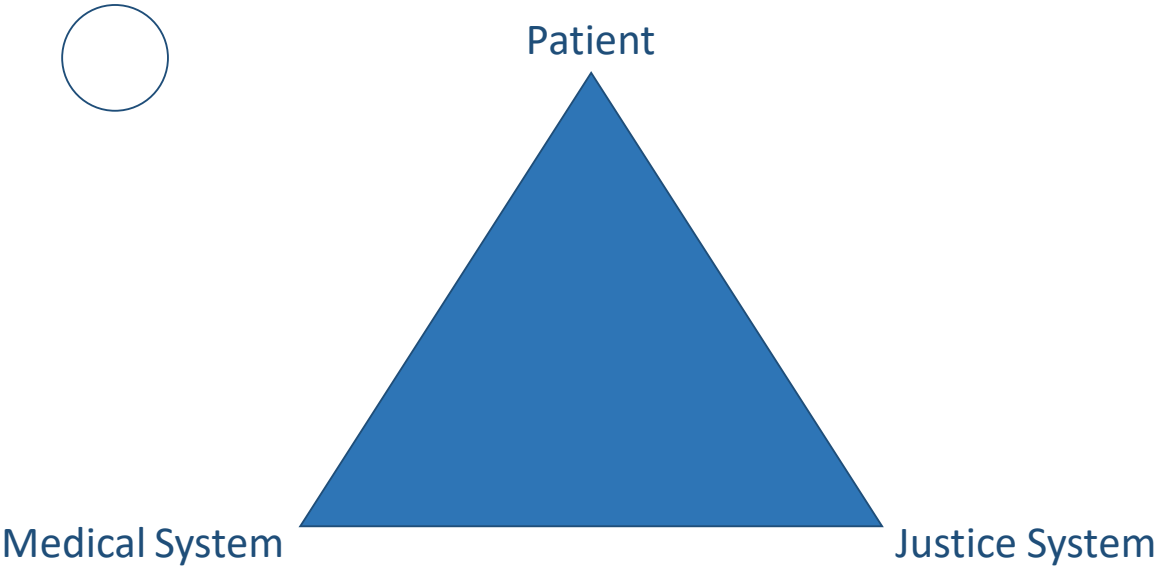


Figure1. Elicitation Technique