

Key questions (narrative prompt)	Check - Memo for possible follow-up questions
Part 1: Experiences with sedation in specialist palliative care and understanding of the concept What experience have you gained with sedation in your work environment? Can you describe in your own words what distinguishes sedation in palliative care for you?	Experiences Descriptions Emotions, own experiences Protocol/Guidelines Definition/Understanding Different types of sedation/spectrum of sedation measures Terms such as palliative sedation, terminal sedation, continuous/intermittent
Part 2: Indication When do you usually sedate a patient?	Conditions Time in the course of the disease Intention/aim Restraint Patient's request Refractory symptom (Unbearable) suffering ▪ Subjective vs. objective suffering ▪ Difference between physical and psycho-existential symptoms as the cause of suffering Demarcation: unjustified sedation
Part 3: Decision-making and consent Based on your experience, how is the decision made to sedate a patient? If you have informed the patient and, if applicable, their relatives in the past that sedation is being considered, how did you do this?	Allocation of roles in decision-making Disagreement/conflict situations Time pressure during decision-making due to a high burden of symptoms? Weighing the benefits/risks Weighting awareness Life-shortening effect Informed consent of patient and, if applicable, relatives Health care proxy Judicial guardian Contents of the informed consent discussion Autonomy in the case of unbearable suffering

SedPall – Interview guide for healthcare professionals: physicians*

Part 4: Challenges and opportunities What have you found particularly difficult or challenging in your experience of sedation? What have you found to be particularly positive about sedation cases?	Nutrition and hydration Checking the outcome Letting the patient wake up Monitoring Effect on treatment team Demarcation from euthanasia
Part 5: Contextual aspects In your experience, do patients with and during sedation die differently from other patients in your daily practice?	Demarcation from “natural death” Procedures/Rituals/Farewells Perception of the patient
Part 6: Conclusion/Reflection When you look back on our conversation: What was a particularly interesting or important aspect for you? Why? Is there anything else you would like to say about this subject that we have not addressed?	Reflection on conversation

*Interview guides were developed for nurses, physicians, and other members of the multiprofessional care team, with slight adaptations, respectively.