

Theme	General Question	Prompt items
Introduction	Introduce Research – Looking at how to make it easier to manage symptoms in advanced cancer patients	• Introduce self • Explain confidentiality, length of interview/group, nature of discussion • What we are going to cover (some background, then 2 card sort tasks with examples from your own experience) • Any questions • Obtain consent • Start recording • Participants invited to introduce themselves
Patient background	When did the patient become involved with palliative care?	• What difficulties were they experiencing at the time? • Can you give us some examples of what the palliative care staff have supported them and you with?
Card sort 1 How decisions are made	What are the most important things when the care team decide how to manage the patient's symptoms?	Can you tell me a little more about how the care team make decisions about the patient's care? • Is there something we have not covered here? • Can you give me an example of when you were particularly happy with the way a decision was made about the treatment or care? • Can you tell me about a time when you were less happy with how a decision was made about the treatment or care?
Card sort 2 What factors influence the success of approaches to manage symptoms, side-effects and other problems	What are the most important things when the patient is receiving support for their symptoms?	Can you tell me a little more about how these things affect the patient or you ? • Is there something we have not covered here? • Can you give me an example of something that has really helped the patient or you ? • Can you tell me about something that didn't work well for the patient or you ?
Closing	Thank you for your participation	