TOPIC GUIDE

Health Professionals

Evaluation of the impact of the Edinburgh Cognitive and Behavioural ALS Screen (ECAS) and neuropsychological intervention in Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

BACKGROUND

- How many years working with people with Motor Neurone Disease?
- How many years in post?
- Brief description of the MND care service you are involved with.

THE USE OF THE ECAS/OTHER NEUROSPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS

- In (location), do you assess ALL patients with MND for changes in cognition and behaviour?
    - If yes, is this always with the ECAS?
    - If yes, at what point is the screen carried out? What prompts it?
    - If no, what factors determine whether or not a patient is offered an ECAS/other neuropsychological assessment?

- Where does the ECAS/other neuropsychological assessment take place?

- Which health professional carries out the assessment?

- What factors determine which health professional will carry out the assessment?

IMPACT OF ECAS/OTHER NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT ON PATIENTS AND CARERS

- What effect does the process of performing the ECAS/other neuropsychological assessment have on patients and any carers?

    - What are the benefits?
    - What are the potential harms?

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

- Once a patient has been assessed, what pathways are in place to ensure they receive neuropsychological support?
    - What factors determine whether the pathway is triggered or not?
    - Who refers them for neuropsychological support?
    - To whom are they referred?
    - How much time usually passes between a referral being made and support taking place?
    - Where does the initial appointment with neuropsychology take place?

FOR NEUROPSYCHOLOGISTS ONLY- What types of neuropsychological interventions are offered to patients with MND and cognitive/behavioural difficulties? How are they implemented?

- What are they?
- Who is involved?
- How are the interventions tailored to the individual and their circumstances?
- How does the ECAS/other neuropsychological assessment inform the types of interventions offered?

IMPACT OF ECAS ON PATIENT CARE

- What impact have the results from the ECAS/other neuropsychological assessment had on your awareness and understanding of your patients?
    - How has it influenced your clinical decision making? Can you give examples?
- What impact have the results from the ECAS/other neuropsychological assessment had on other healthcare professionals and the multidisciplinary team involved in the care of the patient?
    - How do you think it has influenced their clinical decision making? Can you give examples?

- What effect does neuropsychological assessment and intervention have on patients and any carers?
    - What are the benefits?
    - What are the potential harms?