

ATTACHMENT C: FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS



Medication Safety Focus Group Discussion Guide

1. Welcome Group
2. Housekeeping
 - a. Introduction-Facilitator
 - b. Video taping-people watching behind wall
 - c. Breaks-restrooms
 - d. Cell phones/pagers
 - e. There are no right or wrong answers-we want to hear from everyone. We aren't looking for consensus just your true opinions and feelings
 - f. Don't be offended if I interrupt you and move onto someone else, we have a lot of material to get through and I want to hear everyone's opinion.
 - g. Does anyone have any questions before we begin?
3. Group Purpose
 - a. You have been selected to help us identify ways to increase medication safety in doctor's offices/pharmacies and at home.
4. Introductions
 - a. First name
 - b. What comes to your mind when you first think about Medication Safety?
There is no need to mention the name of the medicine you take if you don't want to.
5. Exploring difficulties
 - a. Do you feel that your doctor or pharmacist works with you to increase medication safety? Why or why not?
 - b. Is managing your medicines easy or difficult? (Write scale on the board and identify where they fall on the scale) For those that say easy, what makes it easy? Or what makes it difficult?
 - c. What are some of the difficulties you encounter when dealing with your medicines? (Probe for specific examples) Ask: How did that make you feel? How do you deal with this problem?
 - d. What are some of your concerns or questions about the medicines you take?
6. Exploring the visit to the doctor
 - a. How many of you have been asked to bring the actual prescription bottles to your doctor visit? How does that make you feel?
 - b. What kinds of discussions do you have with your doctor about your medicines during your visit? Again, it is not necessary to tell us what medicines you are taking.
 - i. What do you discuss regarding over the counter medicines?
(Supplements, vitamins, herbs, teas or tonics)



7. Exploring Solutions

- a. What role should your doctor or nurse play when it comes to medication safety?
 - i. What would you like them to do to help with your medicines? (Examples)
- b. What role should your pharmacist play when it comes to medication safety?
 - i. What would you like them to do to help with your medicines? (Examples)
- c. Do you think it is important for your doctor to understand everything you are taking on a daily basis? Why or why not?
- d. Is there anything your doctor or pharmacist could do to make you feel better about your medication safety? (Have them describe ideas in detail)

8. Idea testing

- a. What methods do you use or do you think would help you to manage your medicines? (Pill boxes, paper records)
- b. Does anyone have a method they would appreciate help from their doctor with?
- c. If cost were not an issue what would be the ideal way to organize your medicines?
- d. Addition of any suggestions by the grant team to aid in medication safety.
 - i. This is an example of a way to organize ... how do you feel about this? Would it work for you?
 - ii. Do you think something like this (paper list option, etc) would help you with your problems organizing your medicines?

