

Name	Improving communication in medical consultations in people with cirrhosis: The development of a Question Prompt List (QPL).
Type of project	Health service research – development of a communication aid.
Aims/objectives	To develop and pilot a QPL for people with cirrhosis in an outpatient clinic, using a mixed methods approach with 6 stages of development. To obtain information about the feasibility of using QPLs in liver outpatient clinics.
Inclusion/exclusion criteria	For Stage 3 and 5, two groups were recruited: 1) patients and their family members currently attending liver outpatient clinics at the Royal Free Hospital 2) Medical and nursing health professionals working in liver outpatient clinics, Royal Free Hospital, London INCLUSION CRITERIA i) Patients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with liver cirrhosis, at least one episode of decompensation and a Childs-Pugh score > 7 • People with sufficient level of spoken English to discuss relevant issues • Not cognitively impaired • Age ≥ 18 years ii) Close family members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified either by patients or health professionals as the main provider of individual physical and emotional care, and not employed by statutory or voluntary services to provide this care • Attending outpatient clinic with their associated patient • People with sufficient level of spoken English to discuss relevant issues • Age ≥ 18 years iii) Health professionals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant physicians, higher speciality trainees and senior nurses caring specifically for patients with liver cirrhosis in out-patient clinics
Description of intervention	Stage 1: Narrative literature review to identify suitable items to include in a QPL. Stage 2: On-line survey to identify potential items to include in a QPL, using on-line support group forums of 4 voluntary liver organisations. Stage 3: Interviews / focus groups with people with cirrhosis, their close family members and liver health professionals to identify initial items for a cirrhosis-specific Question Prompt List. Stage 4: Construction of QPLv0.1 with input from an expert panel, using findings from Stages 1-3. No regulatory authority is required for this stage. Stage 5: Refinement of QPLv1 – Mixed methods evaluation with people with cirrhosis and close family members to explore their views and perceptions of QPLv0.1, to identify further questions to include and to explore what modifications may be needed. Stage 6: Reconvening expert panel to finalise the layout of the new version of QPL (QPLv0.2). Conduct pilot work in liver outpatient clinics to explore if further revisions needed, and to determine how best to deliver the QPL in a clinical setting.
Measures used to assess progress	n/a
Resources required	Patients identified by their consultant, recruitment undertaken by the UCL researchers. Facilities: private room either on ward or in clinic to talk to patients.

	No specific funding. Work for this study was conducted by staff from the Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Department, UCL, who are funded from the Marie Curie Core research grant (MCCC-FPO-16-U).
Progress	Stage 1 to 5 are complete. We are currently preparing for Stage 6 and awaiting to submit an amendment to HRA.
Lessons learnt	The 30 items initially identified for the QPL was considered too long by clinicians. The research team has had to shorten this list.
Future plans	We aim to develop of a randomised control trial using the QPL developed in this study as the main intervention.
Resources produced	Final QPL in development
Contact details	Dr Joe Low joseph.low@ucl.ac.uk Professor Patrick Stone p.stone@ucl.ac.uk Dr Doug Thorburn douglas.thorburn@nhs.net Mrs Sarah Davis s.davis@ucl.ac.uk