**Table 1.** Example interview topics and questions

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| Interview topics | Example questions |
| Knowledge and experience | *Could you give me an outline of what happened to your child for them to need emergency treatment for severe infection?*    *Do you know if your child was given a fluid bolus?*  *Have you ever heard of a clinical trial before?*  *Have you ever been asked if your child could take part in a clinical trial?* |
| Participant information | *Looking at the information sheet, are there any parts of the study that you think parents may find difficult to understand?*  *Would you have any questions about the FiSh Trial?*  *Would you have any concerns about the FiSh Trial?* |
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| Consent decision-making | *Are there sections of the FiSh information sheet which you would prioritise when making your decision about whether or not to consent?*  *How much time would you need to consider the information before making a decision about the FiSh Trial?* |
| Approach to consent | *[Following the description in Box 1]*  *Have you ever heard of research without prior consent (RWPC) before?*  *What do you think about the use of RWPC in the proposed FiSh Trial?*  *When do you think is the best time to approach a family to discuss the FiSh Trial?* |
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| Participation | *Would you have given your permission for the use of your child’s data in the FiSh Trial?*  *[Prompt] Could you tell me a bit more about your reasons for this?* |
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| For bereaved parents only | *What do you think about approaching parents for consent for their child’s data after they have passed away?*  *What advice would you give doctors and nurses on how to go about approaching bereaved parents for consent for the FiSh Trial?*  *How do you think this should be done? [Prompt: explore: face-to-face, telephone call, letter]*  *When do you think is the best time for doctors and nurses to approach bereaved parents for consent?* |