## Supplement 1

## Interview Guideline (English translation)

**1st Declaration Phase:**

1. Explanation of the **main topic**:  
   We are conducting this interview to know your perspective about the barriers to access to cancer pain management in Ecuador. Your attitude and experiences in taking care of patients with cancer are important to us. It would be great if you take my questions only as motivation just let me know what comes to your mind and start telling.
2. Introductory question:  
   What is your own experience in **using opioids** for cancer pain in your daily work?

**2nd General sounding**:

1. **Stimulus:**  
   I am interested in why the opioid consumption in Ecuador is at a low level, this observation led me to the conclusion that your patients may have difficulties to the access of opioid analgesics. Please, tell me about your experience.
2. Perceived **barriers to access**:  
   b.1) In which way does the Ecuadorian health system have an impact on your habits of using opioids for cancer pain management? (e.g. laws, cost, distribution)

b.2) What is your perception of the attitude of your patients regarding the use of opioid analgesics? What about their experience of pain/pain relief?

b.3) Same question as before concerning the general population.  
b.4) Concerning health care providers: What is your perception about their attitude on cancer pain management? Tell me about your experience.

b.5) Which barriers are most relevant to access to opioids?

1. **Suggestions:**  
   c.1) In which way could access to opioids be improved for patients with cancer pain?   
   c.2) Is there an idea for action plans? Which would be the first needed steps?
2. **Detail: Health system in Ecuador**:  
   d.1) Looking at the health system in Ecuador: could you explain to me how do opioids get to the hospital and patients? How does the supply chain work?   
   d.2) How is the payment for the oncological treatment and its pain management? (e.g.: Health insurance, pay off pocket)  
   d.4) Which role does traditional medicine play?
3. **Sociodemographic data**: now I have to ask you some facts about you:  
   f.1) Would you mind telling me, how old are you?   
   f.2) What is the highest level of education that you have reached?  
   f.3) Do you have additional qualifications in pain management or palliative care?  
   f.4) At the moment what are your professional activities?  
   f.5) For how long have you been working now with patients with a cancer diagnosis?

**3rd Specific sounding:**  
  
Back reflection, confirm understanding, confront as needed to clarify, highlight, or put up a discussion.

**4th Ad-hoc questions:**

Do you have something to add?

Would you like to revisit any of the questions?