Appendix 1 – Topic Guide

1. **Can you describe what you as a team do immediately after a very preterm baby (<32 weeks) is born?**

   Prompts:
   - own role?
   - How do you manage provision of respiratory support/thermoregulation?
   - Do you engage in any strategies such to facilitate placental transfusion (cord clamping/cord milking)?

     Prompts:
     - timing of cord clamping, how long they wait
     - when they give the uterotonic drug when they delay cord clamping
     - whether they resuscitate the baby whilst waiting to clamp the cord
   - Where is the baby in relation to the mother?

2. **Why do you do what you do?**

   - Why do you do it that way?

3. **What are the main strengths and weaknesses of the way in which you manage very pre-term babies?**

4. **Do you do practice deferred cord clamping or cord milking (as appropriate) with all babies or only some?**

   - How do you decide which babies you will manage in this way?

     Prompts:
     - baby’s condition,
     - mother’s condition,
     - perceived attitudes of parent/s,
     - availability of staff/equipment
   - Are there circumstances when very pre-term babies are managed differently? And, if so, what are they?
   - Do you think the procedure is appropriate for all preterm babies?
   - If not, which babies is it most appropriate for? And which babies is it least appropriate for?
5. **What are your practical experiences of managing very pre-term babies in this way?**

   - How does the team manage assessment and stabilisation?
   - What are the practical difficulties and how are they managed?
   - What has been the reaction of mothers and/or partners?

6. **How long have you been managing very pre-term babies in this way?**

7. **What factors influenced your decision to start managing very pre-term babies in this way?**

8. **How easy was it to implement this way of working?**

   Prompts:
   - Facilitators
   - Barriers

9. **If another unit was thinking of introducing this practice, what would you recommend them to do?**

   - Are there any pitfalls which they should try to avoid?

10. **How do you think you might improve the initial bedside care of pre-term babies?**