

Supplementary figure 4. Questionnaire of the interviews performed in STAGE 2.

0. INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION

Good afternoon,

My name is _____, I work at Anima Consulting. We are currently conducting a survey among cardiologists and laboratory directors for a research study. Our aim is to get an insight into the design process of test panels in hospitals in Spain.

To collect, record, and analyse this information, we need to take notes and make audio recordings. Nevertheless, we can stop the recorder whenever you want. It is important that you feel comfortable during the interview.

Please, note that this is a confidential study. To guarantee your privacy, your name and/or any personal information will not be disclosed at any time.

The purpose of collecting this information is to get a better understanding of this issue.

We insist that we only seek your opinion and experience. There are no correct or incorrect answers. Do you have any questions before we start?

1. PROFESSIONAL PROFILE AND EXPERIENCE WITH STP

Firstly, please, let us know you a little better and learn about your experience with automation processes

- What is your occupation?
- In what centre do you work?
- How long have you worked as a cardiologist in your hospital?
- How do you define “specific test panel”?

At present, there are four request systems for testing iron profile:

1. A system where each iron parameter is selected individually, without a specific test panel being available (iron parameters are selected one by one).
2. A system where iron parameters can be selected in block, without a specific test panel being available.
3. A system of test panels that do not include iron profile tests.
4. A system including test panels, including a test panel for iron profile.
 - What type of system is available in your hospital? How long has it been available?
 - Do IM use them too?
 - Are these test panels shared with PC? Do GPs use the same panels?

2. AUTOMATION PROCESS

- Were you involved in the automation process? To what extent? What was your role as a cardiologist?
- If the answer is “no”, have you been involved in other automation processes? In what processes?
- More specifically, in your opinion, what are the advantages and disadvantages of this automation? Why?
- In general, how are specific test panels created? Is there any protocol providing guidelines for the automation of processes?
- If the answer is “yes”, What guidelines does the protocol provide ?
- If the answer is “no”, How are automation processes arranged?

3. EXPERIENCE IN THE CREATION PROCESS OF TEST PANELS

Perfect, thank you very much for this background information. Let's talk about the creation of test panels for patients with HF/XXXX in which you were involved. Please, describe....

Your experience in the creation of test panels

- How was the experience?
- If you had to describe this experience in a word, what word would you use? Why?

To get an overview...

- How many phases did the creation of the test panel involve?
- What was your role in each phase? Let the respondent give a spontaneous response
- What other professionals, apart from you, were involved in each phase? What was the role of IM? And the role of the laboratory director?
- What were their duties?
- What were the main motivations for the creation of the test panel? What were the reasons?
- What were the main difficulties you faced? What were the cause?
- What aspects could have been improved? How?
- What aspects were effective during the creation process? Why?
- How did the presence/absence of a protocol influence the automation process? Why?

4. CURRENT USE OF STPs IN PATIENTS WITH HF

- How long has this test panel been available?
- How often do you use this test panel in the management of HF patients? (number of times it is used per day).
- From 1 to 10, where 1 indicates “barely” and 10 “dramatically”, How does this automation process improved the diagnosis of patients with HF? Why?
- And the treatment of HF in general? Why?
- Why do you think that other centres do not use test panels?
- What are the main barriers to automation?
- How do you think these barriers could be overcome?
- Would you recommend hospitals to create test panels for patients with HF?

- Why yes/no? (if it depends, what does it depend on?)
- Could you give five reasons why you would do it?
- Who should one talk to encourage the automation of iron profile testing in other hospitals? Why?

Thank you very much for your participation. It is very useful for us.