Interview schedule for out-of-hours doctors

Interview start:
1) Collect personal data from GP including name, age, number of years worked, palliative care related work experience, work pattern, out-of-hours (OOH) work pattern, how long been doing OOH for?
2) General question to start: “Why do you do out-of-hours?”
3) Main interview section, see below.

A) Out of hours palliative care: perceptions
   I) How does out-of-hours work compare with normal (in-hours) GP work?
   II) How does seeing palliative care patients out-of-hours affect you?
   [Prompt: What feelings are evoked?]

B) Out-of-hours palliative care: symptom control
   I) How do you feel about symptom control in palliative care?
   II) What sort of symptoms do you have to deal with when seeing palliative care patients out-of-hours?
   III) Do you feel confident when dealing with difficult symptoms out-of-hours?
   IV) Can you think of some challenges you’ve faced?

C) Out-of-hours palliative care: coping and support
   I) How do you cope with difficult situations out-of-hours?
   II) What do you do when you don’t know what to do?
   III) Is there anyone you can call if you are stuck?
   IV) Is there any area that you think might be improved?
   V) Have you had training in palliative care?
   VI) Any problems with follow-up?
   VII) Out-of-hours doctors working as team or not?
   VIII) Opiophobia and fear of high analgesic/sedative doses?
   IX) Communication between in-hours GPs and out-of-hours GPs- any issues?
   X) Is there adequate information on patients, such as letters and notes?
   XI) Prescribing for patients over the phone- is it an issue?
   XII) Any general comments about what we’ve said and about symptom control out-of-hours?