

## Section FH Family History

Questions on family history are to be asked for **CASE FAMILIES ONLY**.

I would now like to ask you some questions about your family. We are interested in both how many close relatives you have and whether they have had some particular illnesses.

Firstly, please may I have some details of your own parents and your brothers and sisters and their children and any grandchildren you may have. This is to give us an idea of the size of your family.

Turn to FH Page 1 and record names, relationships and dates of birth of first degree relatives. Start with parents, then ask if any brothers or sisters. This means probing carefully for exact relationships, ie step-sibs, half-sibs, step-children or adopted children. Ask if they are alive and well, if "NO" record date of death.

If you write the names on every other line there will be enough space to write in all the necessary details at the right hand side. We do not anticipate such enormous families which would make this impossible.

When complete, then ask:

**Q1** Have any of these relatives whose details I have recorded ever had leukaemia or lymphoma, any other cancer?

*If "YES" -*

Record details for each, including: treating hospital; year of diagnosis; date or year of death and place of death (town); and address at diagnosis. These are all details which are necessary for confirming diagnosis.

**Q2** When did ..... x ..... have ..... y .....?

or

Can you tell me when or how old he/she was when he/she first became ill with 'y'?

**Q3** Can you tell me where he/she was living when he/she was first treated for ....y....?

**Q4** Is he/she still alive?

*If "NO" -*

**Q5** When did he/she die?

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## Interviewer Instructions

When asking about first and second degree relatives - if respondent is reluctant to release names do not press. Instead, record how many sibs and children, the relationship and year of birth.

Do not assume that single people have no children - ask gently.

*Probe* for details of adopted, step and 1/2 sibs, eg

Are all your brothers and sisters full brothers/sisters.

If respondent asks what is meant by full, reply

Do they have the same mother and father as yourself?

Ask if any of the children are adopted or step-children.

If respondent does not know date of birth of relative ask

How old is he/she?

and record answer as 40/90, ie 40 in 1990.

Questions regarding illnesses - difficulties will arise with this section when respondents start giving details of other relatives such as grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc.

Handle this carefully, be polite and firm, but do not 'put down' or antagonise respondent. Listen for a short while and then say that

Unfortunately, for the purposes of this interview, we only need details of the relatives we have specified.

Section FH page 3 is for coding only after the interview. When blue editing, write down the line number, relationship, diagnosis and date of diagnosis for each relative having one of the named illnesses.