**Table S1a** Research themes and questions for patients, family, and close friends

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| **Focus** | **Theme** | **Key research questions** |
| Experience of cognitive dysfunction in each aspect of life | Work life | * How does cognitive dysfunction become visible in the workplace?
* How do patients and those they work with handle cognitive dysfunction?
* What are the hopes, fears, and challenges around absence and return to work?
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| Family life | * How does cognitive dysfunction manifest itself in everyday life with close family?
* How is cognitive dysfunction talked about or otherwise approached by family members – if at all acknowledged?
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| Leisure and social life | * How does cognitive dysfunction influence your ability to connect to friends?
* What is the impact of cognitive dysfunction on leisure activities?
* What are the struggles around leisure and social life during sickness absence and return to work?
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| Inner life | * What is the lived experience of being confused, forgetful, and indecisive? Is it perceived as integral to the MDD?
* How does cognitive dysfunction influence your sense of who you are?
* How does cognitive dysfunction affect aspirations and purpose?
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| Medical history | * What is patient’s history with depression?
* What is patient’s history with cognitive dysfunction?
* What is patient’s treatment history: medical, pharmacological, and other?
* What is the relation between treatment and cognitive dysfunction?
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| MDD, major depressive disorder. |