**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? |
| 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? |
| 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? |
| 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? |
| 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? |
| MDD, major depressive disorder. | | |