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Appendix A – Interview schedule

Part 1. Object elicitation exercise

'Did you manage to identify two objects that are linked in your mind to the uncertainty associated with your cancer experience? Can you tell me why you chose these objects?'

Part 2. Interview questions

Note: these questions were adapted to take account of what had already been shared in Part 1. For example, if participants chose an object in Part 1 that was connected to their initial diagnosis, it may not have been necessary to ask the first question below as they might already have shared this information.

- i. 'How did you find out that you had cancer?'
- ii. 'What were the biggest questions you had in your mind around the time you were first diagnosed?'
- iii. 'How did these change over time?'
- iv. 'What did it feel like in your body to be living with this uncertainty? How about emotionally?'
- v. 'Who helped you to deal with your uncertainty?'
- vi. 'What did you do to make sense of your uncertainty?'
- vii. 'How aware were you of the uncertainty of life before your diagnosis?'
- viii. 'How has your relationship with uncertainty changed since your diagnosis?'
- ix. 'What does uncertainty mean to you now?'
- x. 'Is there anything else you would like to say about your experience of uncertainty?'

Concluding questions

If the following information did not emerge spontaneously in the course of the interview, participants were asked to share:

- i. Their age
- ii. Their cancer diagnosis/diagnoses (i.e. the type of cancer they have)
- iii. The year/s of their cancer diagnosis/diagnoses

Finally, participants were asked:

'Are there any questions you would like to ask me about the research project before we finish?'