**Appendix. Interview Guide**

*Interviewee leadership role*

1. Why did you think it was important for you to participate in this study?
2. Tell me about your role at the clinic.
3. Tell me about the clinic setting where you work.

*Clinic QI efforts; alignment of clinic and hospital priorities*

1. What are the biggest priority areas in your clinic right now in terms of time and resources?
2. What types of quality improvement efforts are occurring at your clinic? What has been driving these changes?
   * 1. How aware is your clinic of practice redesign efforts, such as ACOs, PCMH, meaningful use of EHRs? What has been the perception towards these (e.g., are they viewed as priorities for the clinic)?
     2. How ready is your clinic to take steps towards any of these transformations?
3. Where does the issue of improving hospital-to-outpatient transitions fall on your clinic’s priority list? What about reducing hospital readmissions? What incentives are there for you to focus on this?
4. How do your clinic’s priority areas align with efforts to improve transitions at your nearby hospitals? How do you think this affects the effectiveness of your respective efforts? (move hospital questions to here)
5. How has your clinic collaborated with hospital leadership in the past? Hospital-based clinicians to improve hospital discharges (transitions)?
   * 1. (If yes) What prompted these collaborations? (Or if negative response) What thoughts do you have as to why not?
     2. (If yes) What was beneficial about these collaborations? What were the challenges that were encountered?
6. To what extent has the possibility to collaborate with the /a hospital on discharge planning been discussed at your clinic?
   * 1. What prompted these discussions? (Or if negative response) What thoughts do you have as to why not?
7. What barriers are there to further collaboration with hospital leadership? What about with hospital clinicians? [Potential prompts: staffing? Financial barriers?]
   * 1. What suggestions do you have on how to overcome those barriers?
     2. How do local financial issues affect collaboration? Leadership? Clinics or hospitals prioritization of collaboration? Importance of issue? How does where your patients seek hospital or ER care affect the possibility of collaboration?

*Relationship with hospitals*

1. Tell me about your clinic’s relationship with particular hospitals -- for example where do your patients get admitted?
   * 1. What hospitals does your clinic have an affiliation with? What do you mean by ‘affiliation’?
2. Tell me about the discharge process as clinicians in your clinic experience it—in terms of communication? Coordination between hospital and clinic? Hospital and nursing home? Problems? (Prompts: With communication? Timeliness? Gaps in information?)
   * 1. Do clinicians in your clinic feel that they are working on the same side or on the same team as hospital clinicians? Why or why not?
3. Has any hospital in your local area, to which your patients are admitted, ever had a program or process in place to improve hospital discharge to home? Discharge to nursing homes?
   * 1. If so, how was your clinic involved development and implementation of the program? Why or why not?
     2. How has your clinic’s involvement (or lack of involvement) influenced the uptake and/or effectiveness of the program?
4. How satisfied are clinicians in your clinic with the communication between the clinic and your associated hospitals during these patient transitions? Between nursing homes and your clinic?
   * 1. What are the benefits of the current approach? Areas for improvement?
     2. What parts of the process could be applied to other practices who are struggling with these issues?