

# Patient story development: a discussion guide

Below are some interview questions that you can use to help patients develop a story that will educate and inspire others who have coronary artery disease.

1. What symptoms were you experiencing that made you think you might have heart disease?
2. What eventually led you to seek medical help?
3. What was the experience like in getting to the diagnosis?
  - What tests did you undergo?
  - What did the tests show?
4. What was your reaction upon learning that you had coronary artery disease (CAD)?
  - Had you heard of coronary artery disease before speaking with your doctor?
5. What did your doctor tell you about your condition, including treatment options and prognosis?
  - Did you discuss the nature and severity of your CAD with your doctor?
  - What treatment options did you discuss?
  - Were there some treatment options that you and your doctor determined would not be right for you at the time?
6. What treatment(s) did you ultimately receive?

## Medicine

- If you were first treated with medicine only, how well did the medicine reduce your symptoms?
- Was there a point at which you and your doctor realized that medicine wasn't doing enough to help you? Please describe your symptoms while taking medicine.

## Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)

- Did you have a minimally invasive procedure called PCI, also known as coronary stenting or coronary angioplasty?

- Was PCI offered as an alternative to a bypass? (If so, were you turned down for bypass or did you choose PCI as an alternative to a bypass? Why?)
- How recently did you have PCI?
- Had you ever been turned down for PCI previously because of the complex nature of your blockage? If so, what did you and your doctor discuss about advances that now made PCI possible for you?

## Bypass

- Did you have or had you previously undergone a bypass procedure?
  - If so, how did your PCI experience compare?
7. Were you referred to another doctor for your PCI procedure/stent implant? If so, please describe that process and how you felt about it.
  8. How long after you had your PCI/stent implanted were you able to return home?
  9. Please describe how the procedure has improved your symptoms, particularly in relation to how you felt before being diagnosed and/or when you were just being treated with medicine.
  10. In general, would you recommend that other people with your condition talk to their doctors about having a PCI procedure?
  11. What would you tell other people considering a PCI procedure?
  12. What is your understanding of today's advances in PCI procedures?