

In-depth Interview Guide – Month 6 interview

Qualitative component: Exploring HIV self-testing experiences among HIV-1 uninfected men and women.

Target group: HIV uninfected partners enrolled in the Partners HIV Self-testing Project in Thika
Objectives:

- 1. Learn opinions of HIV uninfected partners on HIV self-testing.**
- 2. Gain an understanding of how participants performed the HIV self-test including any challenges experienced.**

Topic 1: Acceptability

What do you think about HIV self-testing now? What are the advantages? What are the challenges?

Possible probes:

- What would be the advantages or benefits? What motivated you to take / do a HIV self-test?
- What are the reasons that would make you not perform a HIV self- test?
- Possible concerns with HIV self- testing?
- How do you feel when you think about HIV self-testing (like/not like)
- How did your partner feel about you HIV self-testing?

Topic 2: Usability

How was your experience in using the HIV self-test?

Possible probes:

- When did you self-test? What reminded you? How many tests did you perform?
- Please walk me through the process you used to take the test.
- What did you do to prepare yourself to take the test?
- How (easy/difficult) was it to perform a HIV self-test?
- What did you do after taking the test?
- What challenges did you experience in performing the HIV self-test?
- What challenges did you face interpreting the results?
- Have you shared your HIV self-test kits with others? If so who? Why?
- Have you tested others with your HIV self-test kits? If so who? Why?
- Have you used the 24-hour helpline?
- How did you store the HIV self-test kits? And the bottles of PrEP?

Topic 3: PrEP Adherence

- How has your adherence to PrEP been during the last 6 months? Have you taken all 6 bottles?
- How might your adherence differ if you were coming to the clinic every 3 months for PrEP?
- How might HIVST affected your adherence to PrEP?

Topic 4: HIV testing preferences

What would you prefer: self-testing at home or clinic based testing?

Possible probes:

- What would you prefer, oral/blood HIV self-testing at home or clinic based testing? What are your reasons?
- What are the things that would make you prefer HIV self-testing?

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- What are the things that would make you prefer clinic-based testing?
- How did you find the quarterly self-testing schedule?

Topic 5: Disclosure

Did you disclose your HIV results to anyone?

Possible probes:

- How was it like to tell someone that you used an HIV self-test?
- Was there any difference disclosing results from a self-test than disclosing results from clinic-based tests? Please explain.

Topic 6: Sexual Behavior

After you did the HIV self-test, what changed in your life?

Possible probes:

- How does HIV self-testing change sexual behavior (if at all)?
- Condom use? The number of partners?

Topic 6: Closing discussion

Possible probes:

- When people self-test and get a positive result, what are some ways to help them?
 - Probe about helping via the phone calls, packaging inserts that could provide helpful messages, what kind of preparation should people have before they self-test to prepare for the results, etc.
- What would make it easier for you or others to perform self-testing?
- Any other thoughts or suggestions or questions on HIV self-testing that you would like to share?