**MTN-025**

Drug Feedback In-depth Interview (DF-IDI) Topic Guide

**INSTRUCTIONS for the Interviewer: How to use the IDI Guide**

1. The guide is divided by sections based on topic areas related to participant’s drug feedback. The guide does NOT include transition sentences, however, the interviewer(s) should use their discretion to insert transition language between questions or topics as needed.
2. There are two levels of questions:
* Primary interview questions: appear in **bold** text. They address the topics that you as the interviewer should ask and discuss with participants. The questions are suggestions for getting the discussion going. You are not required to read them verbatim, but they are written to ensure some consistency across IDIs. Please adapt the questions and/or ask them in a different order, depending on how the interview develops. However, you will have to ensure that by the end of the interview, all the topics and key themes have been covered.
* Probing topics: are indicated with a bullet. If you find that the participant does not provide much information in response to the primary question, these probing topics may be used to encourage further discussion. While you are not required to cover every topic listed, probes with the words “*KEY PROBE”* written before it are probes that are the most important to try to address. Depending on what has already been discussed, and the IDI context, you may or may not ask the rest of the probes.
1. *Instructions/suggestions to interviewer are in italics and [brackets].*
2. Words found in (parentheses) are meant to provide wording options to interviewers to fit various situations. For example, they often provide a present or past tense verb. In these instances, the present tense verb should be used when the participant being interviewed is continuing with the study, whereas the past tense verb should be used with those participants who are exiting or have finished participating in the study.
3. The IDI guide is not meant to be used to take notes. Rather, you should use a separate notes document, where you will also write your initials, the participant’s PTID, as well as the date, start and end time of the interview.
4. Purpose statements: appear before a set of questions in *italics*. These should be considered notes to the interviewer and are not meant to be read aloud. They explain the reason for asking that question or set of questions in order to provide more context to the interviewer who can then rephrase in her own words or clarify to the participant as necessary.

**Before starting the IDI, ensure the participant has provided written informed consent and understands the purpose of the study.**

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| **Ring Acceptor at Enrollment** |
| **DF - IDI Visit**  |
| [*Start Recorder and Read Introduction*]: **My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thank you for returning and agreeing to have a follow-up discussion today. I am looking forward to hearing about your experiences since we last spoke. The main goal of this interview is to better understand your views on receiving feedback on your ring drug levels in HOPE so researchers can address any challenges. Remember, what matters is to hear your honest opinions and views. There are no right or wrong answers and what we discuss here will be kept confidential. Whatever you may say, and whether you are using or not using the ring will not affect your ability to continue participating in HOPE. Before we start, can you confirm for the recorder that you understand the study and you have already provided written informed consent to take part in this interview? [***Wait for oral confirmation to begin***].**  |
| **Warm-Up** |
| *Purpose: To ask a broad opening question at the start of the IDI as an opener and get her to open up about her life and experience participating in HOPE so far.*1. **Tell me about your current life experiences. What has been happening lately? (***e.g. partners, family, work and friends****)***

*Possible probing topics:* * *KEY PROBE*: Experience being part of HOPE since last talked
* Changes in her life that may influence her participation in Hope
* Changes that may influence choosing/not choosing the ring
* Experiences during study visits or at the clinic
* Site specific participant engagement activities
* Effects of continued study participation on daily life for participant, partner(s) and others
* Assess partner relationships and any potential social harm issues (GBV)
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|  **Counseling approach** |
| *Purpose: To find out her opinion about new counselling experience in HOPE and how it differs from ASPIRE.*1. **What do you think about the current counseling approach on HIV Prevention options? Tell me about it.**

*Possible probing topics:* * *KEY PROBE:* Likes of the current counseling approach
* *KEY PROBE:* Dislikes of the current counseling approach
* *KEY PROBE*: Relationship with counselor(s) (i.e. comfort discussing ring use with counselor, things counselor has done to make feel comfortable, things counselor has done to make her feel uncomfortable when discussing ring or HIV prevention approaches)
* What other participants are saying about current counseling approach
* Which counseling approach is preferable (ASPIRE versus HOPE) and reasons for the preference
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| **Understanding of residual drug level measurements** |
| *Purpose: Find out whether the participant understands the residual drug measurements in HOPE.*1. **Can you tell us in your own words your current understanding of the drug levels that are being measured in the vaginal ring in HOPE?**

*Possible probing topics***:*** *KEY PROBE:* Understanding of the amount of HIV protection that the different ring drug levels provide
* Reasons why HOPE is measuring ring drug levels
* Participant’s opinion regarding how well the ring drug levels reflects her actual ring use
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|  **Residual drug level results feedback acceptability**  |
| *Purpose: Get participant to discuss her expectations about receiving the residual drug feedback and its influence on her decision to choose use of the ring at enrollment.*1. **Initially, what did you think it would be like to receive your drug level results from the counsellor?**

*Possible probing topics***:** * *KEY PROBE*: Whether knowing she would receive residual drug feedback influenced her decision to choose the ring at enrollment
* Worries or concerns (e.g. concern that her adherence was being “policed”)
* Anticipations or positive feelings about receiving counseling feedback
* Other participants’ initial thoughts and attitudes on receiving counseling feedback (discussion amongst participants in waiting room or outside clinic)
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| *Purpose: Explore who she has spoken with about the fact that she would be receiving these results and why.* 1. **Who did you tell that you would be receiving your personal ring drug levels? (***e.g.**Primary sex partner, other partners, family members, friends, other participants, anyone else*)

*Possible probing topics:** *KEY PROBE*: What she has heard about who other women are disclosing to
* Circumstances and reasons for the disclosure
* What was said, reactions and attitudes
* Influence of discussions regarding residual drug feedback on ring use or study participation
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| **Personal drug level results feedback experience** |
| *Purpose: To explore her personal drug level results and how that may influence her interest in using or not using the ring while in HOPE.*1. **What feedback were you given by the counselor about your personal ring drug levels in HOPE?**

*Possible probing topics:* * *KEY PROBE*: Level of understanding of what her results meant (in terms of protection, or in terms of use)
* If other staff spoke to her about her drug results, discuss that interaction
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| *Purpose: Discuss participant’s reactions to receiving her drug level results.*1. **What was your reaction/experience receiving your personal drug level results from the counsellor?**

*Possible probing topics:* * *KEY PROBE:* What are her feelings are about getting her results
* *KEY PROBE:* What she finds helpful about receiving her ring drug level results
* *KEY PROBE*: Whether this drug results feedback may change her use/non-use of the ring
* Whether this drug results feedback may change her opinion of the ring
* Whether this information may change her relationship with study staff (e.g. trust)
* Whether this information may change her relationship with other participants
* Opinion on lag in receiving results (receiving results from month 1 @ month 3 visit)
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| **Opinions on future drug level results feedback** |
| *Purpose: To explore if there are attributes of the counselling or how the residual drug level results were presented that, if changed, would make the participant more interested in the ring and improve participants overall experience in HOPE and future ring use.*1. **What can we do to improve participants experience with getting ring drug level feedback from counselors while in HOPE?**

*Possible probing topics:** KEY PROBE: What can be done to improve experience with counselling during feedback
* Frequency of feedback (preferences for more or less frequency would be desired in future studies)
* What can be done to improve her personal experience with getting the feedback
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| **Wrap Up** |
| 1. **Thank you for participating and providing insight into your experiences. Before we finish, I wonder if you have any questions for me or if you have any additional comments about your experience in HOPE, using the vaginal ring or about the interview today?**
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