**MTN-032 Phase 2**

Female In-depth Interview (IDI) Topic Guide

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

1. Section topics are in shaded in gray and **bolded**.
2. *Instructions/suggestions to interviewer are in italics and [brackets].*
3. Not ALL questions need to be asked. It is up to the interviewer’s discretion if a question should be skipped if the participant has already provided a response to the question earlier in the interview. Please ensure that by the end of the interview, all the topics and key themes have been covered.
4. Purpose statements 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.
5. There are two levels of questions:
   1. Primary interview questions: appear in **bold** text. They address the topics that you as the interviewer should ask and discuss with participants. You are not required to read them verbatim, but they are written to ensure some consistency across IDIs.
   2. 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. 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.
6. 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.
7. The IDI guide is not meant to be used to take notes. Rather, you should use the separate notes form, where you will also insert your initials, the participant’s PTID, as well as the date, start and end time of the interview.
8. **Special note about seroconverters:** It is important for study staff to review the participant’s HIV status before conducting any study procedures. When asking questions to seroconverters, start off by emphasizing that confidentiality is maintained in the study and reassure the participant that her study information will not be shared with anyone outside the study. Then inform the participant that you are aware that she has seroconverted.

**Before starting the IDI, ensure the participant has provided written informed consent.**

[*Start Recorder and Read Introduction*]: **My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thank you again for your willingness to be in this study. The main goal of this discussion is to better understand your experience participating in HOPE. I want to remind you that there are no right or wrong answers, and what we discuss here will be kept confidential; we will not share your personal information or responses with anyone outside of the study.**

**If during our discussion, there are issues or concerns that you would like to talk about, feel free to bring them up; I will take note of them and answer them directly after the interview. If I cannot answer them, I can refer you to someone who may be able to help. Before we start, can you confirm for the recorder that you have already provided written informed consent to take part in this discussion?** [*Wait for oral confirmation to begin*].

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| 1. **Motivation for joining HOPE** |
| *Purpose: To get details about all of the reasons why she joined HOPE and whether she was influenced more from the ring or the study benefits.*   1. **What are the reasons why you joined HOPE?**   *Possible probing topics:*   * *KEY PROBE:*  What were you hoping to gain from HOPE? Did you get what you came for? Please explain. * *KEY PROBE*: Did you join HOPE more because of the ring or more because of the benefits you received from the study? Please explain. * *KEY PROBE*: What concerns did you have about joining HOPE? |
| 1. **How important did you feel it was to discuss whether to join HOPE with someone else? Why?**   *Possible probing topics:*   * *KEY PROBE*: With whom did you actually discuss? Why? How did they react? * *KEY PROBE*: How did you get them to accept your decision to participate (if applicable)? * *KEY PROBE*: How did their opinions influence your decision? * Why did you not discuss with (others not mentioned above)? |
| 1. **How has being part of HOPE affected you emotionally or socially?**   *Possible probing topics:*   * How has being in HOPE made you feel about yourself? (describe feeling and if positive or negative?) Why? * Tell me about any positive or negative social experiences. (What happened, why, how did you feel? Etc.) |
| 1. **Ring Efficacy** |
| *Purpose: Find out her current understanding of how the ring works with different types of use and how that influenced her ring use.*   1. **I know you were told how to use the ring, but now I want to know in your own view how you THINK you need to use the ring to get your desired level of protection from HIV?** *(e.g. only when going to have sex, throughout the full month, intermittently depending on whether you feel at risk, etc.)* **Please explain.**   *Possible probing topics:*   * *KEY PROBE*: How are these beliefs the same or different from how you actually used the ring in HOPE? * *KEY PROBE***:** What are other ways of using the ring that you heard about? |
| 1. **Did you think you needed to be protected all the time in HOPE? Please explain.**   *Possible probing topics:*   * *KEY PROBE:* How did this influence your use of the ring? (*i.e. did you keep it in all the time even if you didn’t feel you needed protection? or did you remove at times when you didn’t feel like you needed protection?)* * *KEY PROBE:* If you took the ring out to have sex for a few hours, how protected would you feel? Please explain. * *KEY PROBE:* If you took the ring out and didn’t have sex during that time, how protected would you feel the next time you had sex? Please explain. * *KEY PROBE:* If you removed the ring to clean it, how protected would you feel the next time you had sex? Please explain. |
| 1. **How do you think the ring works in your body?**   *Possible probing topics:*   * How fast do you think the ring provides protection after insertion? * How fast do you think your protection decreases after removing? * When you think about the drug in your body, how does that make you feel? * How well do you think the ring protects against HIV? * Do some people need more or less drug to be protected? * What do you think affects how much drug is in one person’s body compared to another person? |
| 1. **Drug results; Adherence/non-adherence; Ring influence on sexual activity** |
| *Purpose: To explore her reaction and understanding of her drug results from HOPE and explore the factors that influenced the participants’ adherence or non-adherence in HOPE.*  **We would like to look at all of your results throughout HOPE and discuss them with you. Here are your results…** [*Present over-time tool*] |
| 1. **How do you feel about these results?**   *Possible probing topics:*   * What do these results mean to you? * Do these results match with how you remember using the ring throughout HOPE? Why or why not? [*record on PSF if matches/does not match*] * Do you trust the method used to test the rings? Why or why not? [*record on PSF if trusts/does not trust*] |
| 1. **Tell me about your sex life while in HOPE.**   *Possible probing topics:*   * How many sexual partners did you have while in HOPE? (Same or different as in ASPIRE?) * What kind of partners were they (*i.e. primary, casual, client, etc*.)? * What kind of sex did you have with each partner (vaginal, anal, oral)? How often? * What kind of sex did you have during menses? |
| 1. **Women differ in whether they feel comfortable talking to their partners about the ring. What did your partner(s) know about the ring, if anything**?   *Possible probing topics:*   * Did you tell your partner(s) or how did he find out?   + How did you bring it up?   + How did he react?   + How did his reaction affect your use of the ring?   + Did his feelings about the ring change over time? What caused the change? |
| 1. **How did the ring affect your sexual life, if at all?**   *Possible probing topics:*   * *KEY PROBE*: How did the ring affect sexual pleasure? (for you and your partners) * *KEY PROBE*: Did you or your partner ever feel the ring during sex? Please explain a situation when this happened. * *KEY PROBE*: How did your partner influence your ability to use the ring?   + Did you sometimes remove the ring for sex? If yes, why? If no, why not?   + If removed for sex, where did you put it? When did you re-insert the ring?   + Did you do anything to avoid feeling the ring during sex? [*Ask about sex positions or acts;* foreplay/finger] * If there were changes in your sex life, do you think they were good or bad? Why so? |
| 1. **What were the barriers to using the ring consistently?**   *Possible probing topics:*   * *KEY PROBE*: [*If applicable*] How did it make you feel when you had a “0”, “1”, or “2”? * *KEY PROBE*: When was it the hardest to use the ring? Why? What did you do to overcome the barriers? * *KEY PROBE*: What kept you participating in HOPE despite the barriers you experienced? * *KEY PROBE*: What motivated you to use the ring despite the barriers you experienced? * *KEY PROBE*: How at risk did you feel during these times (when not having a 3)? Why? * How did receiving 3 rings affect your ability to use the ring? (e.g. easier or harder) Why? |
| *[NOTE: If participant consistently had 2’s and/or 3’s, ask question 12, otherwise skip to Section D.]*   1. **What was motivating you to use the ring during this time?** (e.g. desire to protect yourself from HIV, desire to help the community)   *Possible probing topics:*   * *KEY PROBE*: [*If had any 3’s*] How did it make you feel when you had a “3”? * *KEY PROBE*: [*If had any 2’s*] How did it make you feel when you had a “2”? Why? * *KEY PROBE*: When was it hard to sustain this level of protection? Why? What did you do to overcome the barriers? * Did you ever remove the ring during this time, even though you achieved “2’s” and “3’s”? * How important was it to you to see high protection levels? Why was it so important? |
| 1. **Participant Engagement Activities & Study Procedures** |
| *Purpose: To gain insight on usefulness of site engagement activities at improving adherence.*     1. **What clinic events did you participate in during HOPE?** *(e.g. group adherence meetings, social events, waiting room discussions, etc.)*   *Possible probing topics:*   * How often did you attend the events? [Be specific about what the event was.] * What did you hear or talk about during the events with other participants? Describe what came up. * What was it like to interact with staff during these events? * What was it like to interact with other participants? * Did you discuss what occurred during the events with other participants or other friends/family/members of community? * What other activities you would have liked to have been offered? * What did you hear from staff or others about ring use at your clinic? |
| 1. **How did the clinic events influence your ring use and/or feelings about the ring?**   *Possible probing topics:*   * How were the activities helpful or not helpful in addressing:   + Yours or other participants’ perceptions of ring?   + Yours or other participants’ worries (side effects, harm) about the ring?   + Trust or mistrust of medical research or healthcare? |
| 1. **Ring acceptability** |
| 1. **What is your current opinion of the dapivirine ring?** [U*se opinion tool*]   *Possible probing topics:*   * All the things you disliked (and why)? * All the things you liked (and why)? * How did your attitudes about the ring change over time in HOPE? * What would make you like it more? * What is your primary partner’s opinion of the ring? * What were the attitudes of other participants while in HOPE? How did this affect your thoughts about the ring? * What were the attitudes of other people you told about your ring? How did this affect your thoughts about the ring? |
| 1. **HIV Worries and HIV Protection** |
| *Purpose: To gather more in-depth information about her HIV risk perception and risk reduction strategies.*   1. **How worried were you about getting HIV while in HOPE?**   *Possible probing topics:*   * KEY PROBE: What increased or decreased your worry in HOPE? (e.g. *multiple partners, ring use, condom use, seropositive partner, drug/alcohol use, receiving money/goods for sex, HIV testing, etc.*)? * *KEY PROBE*: How do your worries about HIV compare to other worries in your life (*e.g. financial, work, partner relationship, family issues, etc.*)? * *KEY PROBE*: How did your concern about HIV affect your ring use? |
| 1. **What are you doing to protect yourself from HIV now that HOPE has ended?** (*e.g. condoms, HIV testing, PrEP, medical male circumcision, mutual monogamy, etc.*)   *Possible probing topics:*   * *[Skip for seroconverters]* Do you think you will get HIV? Why/why not? * How motivated are you to stay HIV free? * *KEY PROBE*: What do you think about waiting for the ring to be approved by your government before it is available to you? * Are you more worried about getting HIV from your primary partner or from someone else? Please explain. |
| 1. **Ring uptake, marketing and product roll-out** |
| 1. **We hope the ring will be widely available in the future. If it is, what would make you interested in using it?** *[Skip for seroconverters]*   *Possible probing topics:*   * *KEY PROBE*: What percentage of protection/ efficacy would the ring need to provide in order for you to use it in the future? * *KEY PROBE*: How would you prefer to use the ring (e.g. wear at certain times or all the time)? * What support would you need to help you use it? * Where would you want to get the ring? |
| 1. **What about others – if the ring is widely available, what do you think will be important to others to make them want to use it?**   *Possible probing topics:*   * What would encourage their interest and make the ring appealing to them? * Do you think it will be popular – with whom? * What concerns would they most likely have? * What advice would you give to overcome these concerns? |
| 1. **Wrap Up and Closing Remarks** |
| 1. **We have talked about a lot of things today. Thank you for taking the time to talk to me and share your opinions. We truly appreciate your willingness to participate and discuss your experience with us. You’ve been with us for a long time now – so many years -- and we are grateful for your commitment to this research and to helping us move the ring forward in science. Before we end, I want to give you the chance to tell us anything else you think we should know about the ring – good things, bad things, challenges with using it – anything, that will help us better understand the truth about this ring.** |
| 1. **Do you have any questions for me?** |