Patients’ perspective on HIV/AIDS, treatment and care

(Qualitative Assessment)

Semi-structured interview with ARV users

Name of the interviewer: (Interviewer Code)  

Interview number:  

Name of health facility where patient contacted:  

Date:  

Short introductory remarks

- Introduction of researchers and participant
- Thank participants for agreeing to participate
- Explain purpose of study, purpose of this discussion, reassurance about confidentiality, agree on interview recording.

Socio-demographic information on informants

| Age |  |
|-----|---|
| Gender |  |
| Race or Ethnicity |  |
| Education |  |
| Marital status |  |
| Employment status |  |
| Type of employment |  |

Medical History

- When you were first diagnosed with HIV?
- What made you decide to go for testing?
- When did you start treatment for HIV (ARVs)?
- How do you feel about your health since you started treatment?
Topics for Interview

1. We would like to understand what people actually know about the illness that they have. Can you tell me what you know about HIV/AIDS? (Allow patient to say what they want, then probe on the following):

Probes:
- What is HIV/AIDS?
- What are the causes? Who can get it and Why?
- Is it related to our life style? Do you think screening can prevent from HIV/AIDS?
- Do you think HIV/AIDS is curable?
- Apart from this, is there anything else you may have heard from your community that explains AIDS in a different way?

2. What treatments do you know is available for treating HIV?

3. In your opinion what is the best way to treat HIV/AIDS? ARV? If yes why? Traditional therapies such as e.g.……, if yes why? If both (conventional + CAM)?

4. What is your experience of ART?

Probes
- About adherence
- Adverse effects
- Pill burden
- Lack of food/appetite
- Other lifestyle issues
5. How do you think you are being treated by the health care workers?

**Probes:**
- Privacy & confidentiality
- Respect, being listened to
- Time spent with patient, waiting time
- Integration with other services

6. Do you think you are receiving quality care from the respective health care workers?

7. What do you think about the counselling that you receive?

**Probe:**
- Especially on importance of adherence
- Effectiveness of counseling

8. What support are you given by the health workers to help you adhere better to your medications?

9. What support is available for you in the community, in the family, in the workplace?

**Probes:**
- About discrimination, stigma
- Perceived availability of social support versus social networks
- Any negative social support?
- Any stress exacerbation?
10. How long did it take you to seek medical treatment after the diagnosis?

11. Were there any delays or barriers?

**Probes:**
- Strong influence of the eastern medicines
- Lack of knowledge about available treatments
- Perceived severity of the treatment
- Perceived side effects due to ART

12. What do you think could be done to help people adhere more easily to the treatment?

13. What do you think are the key reasons for non-adherence and good adherence?

14. What are the sources of motivation for adherence?

15. Conclusion, thank participant. Before I end this session, is there anything you would like to add?

16. Thank you again for your participation. I enjoyed our time together.