

11-Thematic interview guide – STI patients

THEMES	QUESTIONS
General information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age (ego) • Sex (ego and partner(s)) • Profession (ego and partner(s)) • Place of residence (ego and partner(s)) • Family environment, marital status, number of children • Education/Level of schooling (ego and partner(s)) • Religion (ego and partner(s)) • Ethnicity (ego and partner(s))
Knowledge of STIs: <i>Sources of knowledge</i> <i>Manifestations</i> <i>Modes of transmission</i> <i>Prevention/treatment/cure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you tell me where you first heard about sexually transmitted infections (STIs)? (Probe for knowledge of STIs) • What are some local terms used for STIs? • Can you give me names of STIs? • What are the manifestations of the disease (STIs)? • What are the modes of transmission? • How can I prevent or protect myself? • Are there any treatments for STIs? • Can an STI be cured?
STI prevention and consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What preventive measures do you take to avoid the risk of contracting STI? • Have you ever had an STI consultation (before last visit)? If yes, when? How many times? • Reasons and circumstances of the consultation? • Were you offered HIV testing as a result of the visit? • Did you tell your partner(s) about the visit?
Care Itinerary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you describe your care itinerary when you felt the symptoms (self-medication, direct consultation at a health facility, healer?) • If you self-medicate, can you give me the names of the drugs or products used? • Did you feel any improvement after using these products? • If you used a formal health facility, can you tell us about your consultation (diagnosis of the health care provider, treatment proposal (with partner?), follow-up...) • If you used a traditional healer, can you tell us about your consultation (diagnosis, proposed treatment, use...)
Knowledge of HIV: <i>Sources of Knowledge</i> <i>Manifestations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you tell me where you first heard about HIV? • What are the manifestations of the disease? • What are the modes of transmission? • How can you prevent it?

<p><i>Modes of transmission</i></p> <p><i>Prevention/treatment/cure</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a treatment for HIV? • Is there a cure for HIV?
<p>HIV prevention and testing practices (pre-HIVST):</p> <p><i>Attitudes towards HIV risk</i></p> <p><i>Testing practices</i></p> <p><i>Information on the serological status of family members/partners</i></p> <p><i>Communication about HIV</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What prevention measures do you take to avoid the risk of HIV transmission? • Have you ever been tested for HIV? If so, how many times? Why and under what circumstances have you been tested? • Do you know the HIV status of your family/partner(s)? • Do you ever discussed HIV with your partner(s)?
<p>Perceived risk of HIV infection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think you are at risk for HIV? • If so, why? • Are there any people who might be at greater risk of HIV infection? If so, who and why? • Do you think people with an STI might be at greater risk of getting HIV?
<p>Knowledge about HIVST:</p> <p><i>Sources of knowledge about HIVST-AIDS</i></p> <p><i>Knowledge Content</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you heard of HIV self-testing (before proposal)? • If so, where and by whom? • What do you know about HIVST?
<p>Provider's HIVST proposal to the patient (How it was proposed by the provider)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you describe you were offered to deliver an HIVST your partner, the content of the information, the medium, and the terms used? • What did you understand about HIVST? (Probe the patient's understanding of the way the HIVST was presented to him or her (objective, use, note the terms used...)) • How did you react to the proposal? • Can you describe your acceptance/refusal to offer the test to your partner? • What were your reasons, motivations, expected benefits or limitations?
<p>Proposal of the HIVST to his or her partner(s) (How the patient proposed HIVST to his or her partner)</p>	<p>If accepted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To which partner (if multiple partners)? • What is your relationship with the partner(s) (married, cohabitating, occasional partner) • How was the proposal made to the partner (time, place, content of the information, medium, terms used, etc.)? • What were the reactions of the partner: acceptance of the self test, refusal (why?), time needed for reflection, search for additional information, from whom (including internet)?
<p>Practices and usage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-testing practice: Can you describe where and how the HIV test took place and whether it took place with your partner or alone? • Ease/difficulty of use? Ease/difficulty of understanding the test result? • Test result: Did you share the information with your partner? With other people?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception of the test results: Did you think the test was reliable, did you have doubt? • Steps taken after the test, depending on the result. If reactive result, what did you do (call the hotline?) Medical consultation (alone or accompanied by the partner?), implementation of a follow-up, treatment...
<p>Perceptions of HIVST and the impact of HIVST:</p> <p><i>On the relationship: trust, communication, distance, violence, sexuality...</i></p> <p><i>On access to and relationship with care (especially if the result is positive)</i></p> <p><i>On HIV testing practices, prevention practices, relationship with HIV, risk...</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you feel about HIVST? • What impact has the use of HIVST had on your relationship with your partner(s)? (Depending on the results) • If positive: what was the attitude of your partner(s) when sharing your HIV status? (Probe for trust, support or rejection, break-up, violence, stigma...) • Have you discussed with your partner(s) treatment, prevention practices to avoid the risk of transmission/or “overcontamination” (if partner is also HIV positive)
<p>Recommendations, suggestions, questions, final comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have any recommendations for better distribution and use of HIVST in the general population, especially for those who refuse or do not have access to conventional tests? • Do you have any questions? • Do you have any final comments? • Acknowledgements