

## S1 Interview schedule.

These questions are intended as a guide only and may be amended as lines of questioning emerge.

### Demographic questionnaire

1. **Age:**
2. **Postcode:**
3. **Country of birth:**
4. **Ethnic background (i.e. your parents birthplace/s).....**
5. **Highest level of formal education you have completed:**  
Up to year 10  Year 12  Diploma/TAFE  Undergraduate degree  Post graduate degree  Other
6. **Gender assigned at birth :**  
Male  Female
7. **Have sex with:**  
Men  Women  Both  Other: Please specify .....
8. **I identify as:**  
Heterosexual  Gay  Bisexual  Queer  Other
9. **Prior to participating in Step Up RCT, had you ever been tested for an STI?**  
Yes  No
10. **What method do you and your partner use as contraception**  
The pill  IUD  Implanon  Condoms   
Nuva ring  Withdrawl  Other (please specify)  .....

11. Any BV recurrence since study participation?
12. How long have you been with your partner?
13. Did you receive treatment?

## Interview

**So, tell me about how you found out about the trial?**

### **Knowledge and previous experience of BV**

- What did you know about BV before the trial?
- What do you know about BV after the trial?
- Were you aware your partner had BV? How often was she getting BV?
  - o Any signs or symptoms you noticed that you thought may have been unusual?
  - o Any previous sexual partners w BV or symptoms?
- How has BV affected your partner?
- How has BV affected you?
- How has BV affected your relationship?
  - o Sex life/ Anything you and your partner do differently because of BV?
- Have you noticed any changes in your partner since treatment?
- Have you noticed any changes in yourself post treatment?

### **BV as an STI (informed by some questions in demographic portion)**

- Had you ever been tested for an STI prior to the trial?
- What prompted this?
- Do you think STIs are a “big deal”? (i.e. Serious health consequences)
- How would you feel if you were diagnosed with an STI?
- What are your thoughts on BV being an STI?
- Do you think BV is a “big deal”? (ie. Serious infection/issue for the relationship)  
How do you feel about the diagnosis of BV? Would you feel any different if it were classified as an STI?

### **Reasons for participation**

- Why did you participate in the study?  
Any concerns/hesitations? How resolved?

### **Experience of study and treatment**

- How did you find the study? (amount of contact/how engaged?/educational)
- How did you find the treatment? Oral vs topical. (SEs, affect on lifestyle, adherence- if only one, which prefer?) Anything could improve this? (timing of treatment, etc)

### **Hypothetical**

- What do you think might make some guys accept/decline participating in the study?
- If partner treatment were routine, rather than part of a study, do you think this might make men more inclined to take treatment? Why/not?
  - Is there anything that might influence you to accept/decline treatment- eg. casual partner, your experience of treatment
- There's currently no diagnostic for men to confirm BV. How do you think this might affect your willingness to accept partner treatment?
- How has participating in the study and taking treatment affected your relationship? (positively/negatively) (i.e. Opened up communication around sexual health/ partner grateful)

### **Receiving information**

- Some people can find having the conversation about STIs and partner treatment uncomfortable. Is there anything that would help you have this conversation with your partner?
- If male partner treatment was shown to be effective and you had a partner with BV, would you prefer to receive treatment and information directly from your partner, or a clinician?