



## **Assessing user preferences for HIVST user instructions and IEC materials**

### **1. Why are we doing this research?**

This research is designed to make it easier for people in Malawi to test themselves for HIV (“self-testing”) in a safe and accurate way, by developing clear instructions for people to use their own HIV test kit.

### **2. Why are we asking you to take part in this study?**

Regular HIV testing helps people with HIV get treatment when they are still healthy and it may also help to cut down the spread of HIV. But it is important for people to get the right results, and we do not yet know how easy it will be for people in Malawi to do and read their own tests. For this study, we want to develop clear instructions so that self-testing for HIV can be a simple process.

### **3. What will happen if you decide to take part in this study?**

For this study, we will ask you to use an HIV oral fluid self-test kit and answer questions about whether you found the instructions for the test clear. We will first go to a private room, where we will give you the self-test kit and written and picture-based instructions on how to self-test. These written instructions include a local helpline number that you can contact for additional information on the test as well as counseling. You will then be asked to read the instructions and use the kit on yourself. We will observe your use of the kit and ask you questions about your interpretation of the instructions. Your answers will be written down.

This will take approximately 1 hour of your time.

We suggest that you return to the VCT clinic and test again after completing your HIV self test and interview, regardless of the result of the HIV self test.

### **4. Who are we asking to participate?**

We are asking people attending HIV testing clinics. You have been selected since you were attending the clinic today and was easy for the study to reach (“convenience sampling”).

### **5. Where do we come from?**

We work at the Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme (MLW) and Population Services International (PSI). MLW and PSI conduct research and implement projects on diseases of local importance to Malawi and the region.

### **6. What are the risks and benefits of the study?**

There are no risks associated with the study.

This is a research project that we hope will help us to understand if self-testing is practical in Malawi and to decide how to provide it. There are no direct individual benefits to taking part in this study.

### **7. Do I have to participate in this study?**

Your participation is voluntary. You may withdraw from the study at any time and without giving a reason. You can also decide to answer some questions, and not to answer other questions. If you do not wish to participate in this study, you may choose to receive voluntary counseling and testing at this clinic.

## PS 01A: PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET FOR COGNITIVE INTERVIEWS

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### 8. Confidentiality

All information obtained from the study will be stored securely on paper and computer files and only researchers in this study will have access to them. Data entry will only be performed by the study team and confidentiality will be maintained at all data handling and storage processes.

### 9. Costs

Taking part in the study will not cost you anything. We will give you MWK 1000 for your time and to cover bus fares.

### 10. The Ethics Committees that have approved the study are:

Committee for Medical Research Ethical Considerations [COMREC] and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

### 11. What if I have any questions?

If you have any questions about the disease or about this study please feel free to ask them. If you think of any questions after we have gone please feel free to contact us by calling the following number and asking for Pitchaya Indravudh or Dr Nicola Desmond.

Tel: 01874628 / 01876444

Please contact the COMREC Secretariat should you wish further information about your rights, safety, and wellbeing in research:

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