



## HIV testing preferences, past testing, sexual behavior and stigma

### 1. Why are we doing this study?

We are studying a new approach to HIV testing (self-testing), and have already visited your household for a survey. We now want to collect some more information on people's preferences for different types of HIV testing services, and on other HIV-related issues, including sexual and reproductive health practices. We are interested in making it easy for people to get tested for HIV, and then get treatment if HIV-positive, or better protection if HIV-negative.

### 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 can help to cut down the spread of HIV. This survey will be repeated in about two years time so that we can understand what changes there have been in villages provided with HIV self-testing compared to villages without these services.

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

You will be asked questions about the following:

1. Your preferences relating to HIV testing services
2. More detail on your past use of HIV services, including testing, treatment and actions that you may have taken to protect yourself from HIV, like cutting down on sex, using condoms, or circumcision for men.
3. Your sex life
4. Your views about people living with HIV, and how they are regarded by others

You can choose to answer the survey as individuals or couples. This will take approximately 1 hour of your time.

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

Members of all households in this village who are above the age of 16. We are conducting this study across 20 villages, where we will be offering different HIV testing options. These options will be determined by chance ("random selection").

### 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?

The topics discussed are sensitive in nature. Participants should be comfortable discussing issues related to HIV and sexual and reproductive health.

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.

Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Clinical Research Programme  
P O Box 30096, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, Malawi  
Tel: +265 1876444 ▪ Fax: +265 1875774 ▪ www.mlw.medcol.mw



## **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 others. If you take part in the discussion, we will not be offering HIV tests at this time.

## **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. Confidentiality will be maintained throughout all data handling and storage processes.

We will use a study number, and not your name, to identify you and your household. We will link the information that you give us to the information that was collected in the last household visit about the wealth and size of your household, but will not use your name or any thing else to identify you personally.

## **9. Costs**

Taking part in the study will not cost you anything. We will interview you at home, and will provide MKW 500 for your time.

## **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:

COMREC Secretariat  
College of Medicine Research and Ethics Committee  
P/Bag 360, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, Malawi  
Telephone: 01877245/01877291