



MTN-020 Operational Guidance #11: Additional IDI/FGD Probing & FGD Introduction Script

This operational guidance document applies to sites participating in the ASPIRE Qualitative Component only. The purpose of this memo is to provide: 1) guidance on probing for the potential effect of pregnancy intentions on adherence in IDIs and FGDs; 2) guidance on probing for future interest in a ring with longer duration (i.e. 3 months rather than 1 month); 3) a script to be used to introduce the FGD; and 4) a reminder that Q20-23 on the FGD guide should be skipped at this time.

1) Guidance on probing for the potential influence of pregnancy intentions on product adherence

Many factors may influence participants' adherence to ring use. In addition to the influences already listed on the current guides (e.g. menses, male partners, other participants), we are interested in specifically asking about whether participants' desire to get pregnant influenced product adherence during ASPIRE. We ask that you aim to explore this topic with participants in the final serial IDIs and the FGDs.

For example, in IDI, interviewers could probe:

How did a desire to get pregnant during ASPIRE influence your use of the ring?

In FGD, interviewers could probe:

How did participants' desire to get pregnant during ASPIRE influence their use of the ring?

Below are example questions where probing about pregnancy intentions might be appropriate, but interviewers should feel free to explore pregnancy intentions at any time during the IDI/ FGD where it might fit in naturally.

IDIs:

- (Q6/Q8) How well do you think you (are/were) doing at using the ring the way you (are/were) supposed to?
- (Q10/12) Tell me about a specific time when you had a challenge with the ring.

FGDs:

- (Q11) Tell me what it was like for study participants to use the ring.
- (Q12) How were participants' male partners involved in the study and ring use?
- (Q15) How did participants' contraceptive use during ASPIRE influence their use of the ring?

2) Guidance on probing for future interest in longer duration ring

In addition to gathering data on participant's preferences for the ring compared to other HIV prevention products, we are interested in finding out if the participant would be interested in a longer lasting ring, i.e. one that is replaced every 3 months versus every month. We ask that you aim to explore this question while using the "Product formulation for HIV prevention" visual discussion tool on the IDI

In the IDI guide, this falls under the following questions:



- (Q16/Q14) How does the ring compare with other products that are currently used to prevent HIV or may be used in the future? [*Refer to “Product formulation for HIV prevention” visual discussion tool.*]

3) FGD Introduction Script

[Start Recorder and Read Introduction]: My name is _____ and our note-taker today is _____. Thank you all again for your willingness to be a part of this focus group discussion. You have been asked to participate as your point of view is important. I realize you are all busy and I appreciate your time.

This focus group discussion is designed to assess your and your community’s experiences with ASPIRE. Please know there are no right or wrong answers and we welcome every opinion about the topics we will discuss, so feel free to share your thoughts, opinions, and views openly. We ask that you respect each other’s confidentiality by not sharing information discussed outside this group. Please also respect each other by not interrupting, turning off your cell phones, and understanding that others may have different opinions than you. I want to remind you that what we discuss here will be kept confidential, and that we will not share your personal information or responses with anyone outside of the study.

If during our discussion, there are issues or concerns that you would like to talk about, feel free to bring them up, even if I didn’t ask about them. If you have specific questions during the interview, I will take note of them and answer them directly after the interview. If I cannot answer them, I can refer you to someone who may be able to help.

This discussion will be audio recorded, and later transcribed and translated. You have each chosen a false name by which to go by during this discussion, please state this name before you speak and refer to each other by these names. Before we start, can you confirm for the recorder that you have already provided written informed consent to take part in this discussion? [*Wait for oral confirmation to begin.*]

4) Skipping Q20-23 on FGD guide

Please note that Q 20-23 in the FGD should be skipped since at this time ASPIRE and the IPM Ring Study will complete their full follow up periods as planned per protocol.

Please note this Operational Guidance is official study documentation and it should be filed as part of the study Essential Documents.