

INTERVIEW GUIDE

A. Introduction

- 1) Before starting the interview, I want to thank you for participating in the study. If you need any clarifications about any question, please feel free to ask me at any time. I would also like to remind you that you can choose not to answer questions if you are uncomfortable; and you can stop the interview at any time.

Interviewer: Remind patient that interview results will be anonymous; interviewer is not a doctor and does not work for the oblast/rayon TB hospital or polyclinic; information discussed will not be relayed to patients' doctors or family.

B. General question

Now, we're going to talk briefly about your health and healthcare in general.

- 2) What types of medical care do you think are important to have access to? Why?

C. TB Diagnosis: Healthcare team/system-related

Now, we're going to talk more about your Tuberculosis diagnosis.

- 3) Do you remember when you were diagnosed with Tuberculosis? Can you please tell me about that?

Try to get patient to talk about:

- How long did it take to receive the final diagnosis (days/months/number of visits to the clinic/hospital)?
- Setting of diagnosis (primary care clinic? Private doctor? TB ambulatory clinic? TB hospital?)
- If they recall how long it took them to contact the healthcare doctor/facility after symptoms started
- What was the final push to seek medical attention?

C. TB Diagnosis: Condition-related

- 4) Who did you disclose your TB diagnosis to?

Try to get patient to be specific:

- E.g. family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, employer/boss)?
- Were you worried about people finding out you have TB? And why?

- 5) How did the people react to the disclosure; did the relationship change?

D. TB Treatment: Therapy-Related Factors

- 6) How many months of TB treatment were you prescribed at first? How many months did you actually receive? Was this different from how long you expected? Why?

- 7) Can you please tell me some specifics about your treatment for TB? For example, how many times a week did you take pills? Where did you take your pills (at home, at a clinic, in a hospital, somewhere else)? How did your treatment change over time?
- 8) After you started taking TB medications, did your symptoms change? (e.g. improve? Worsen? Or stay the same?) What was your expectation about that?
- 9) Did you have any concerns or questions about your treatment? What were they and how did you address them?
- 10) Did you have any side effects? How did you cope with them?
- 11) What were the most challenging aspects of TB treatment for you? Probe patient to be specific

E. TB Treatment: Preferences

- 12) If you could choose, where would you prefer to get TB treatment? Why?
- 13) Are there some specific types of support you wish you had during TB treatment? (Probe the patient to be specific (e.g monetary or emotional support and from whom? Maybe family, friends, healthcare workers, government, NGO etc).

F. TB Treatment: Patient-related, Adherence Barriers and Motivators

- 14) Were there days or periods when you didn't take the TB medicine (or thought about not taking the medicines?) Can you please tell me about that?
Try to discuss:
 - Approximate number of days per month (or number of months) treatment was skipped
 - Why did patient stop taking medicines or why did they think about it?
 - a) If they stopped more than once, what were the reasons each time? (Explore issues that contributed to not taking the meds (e.g logistics? Side effects? Cost?))
 - b) Ask patient how they felt when this happened?
- 15) Were there times during your treatment where you thought about NOT taking the medicines but ultimately took them? Can you tell me more about what motivated you to do so?
- 16) What was the /reaction of healthcare workers when you stopped treatment? What did they tell you to do?

G. TB Treatment: Healthcare team- and system-related

- 17) How did you get to the facility to take your treatment? (Duration of travel, cost etc)
- 18) Can you please tell me about the facilities (dispensaries and hospitals) where you received your care? What do you think about the care provided to TB patients?

Talk about:

- flexibility of hours
- Medication stock-outs
- Cleanliness
- Privacy for consults/giving samples
- Wait time to be seen
- General patient-friendliness

19) Can you please tell me about the healthcare workers at the facilities where you received TB care?

Talk about:

- Impression of how healthcare workers interacted with patient
- Amount of time patient spent with doctor or nurse
- Did patient have time to ask questions and what did patient think of the responses to their questions

20) Did the healthcare workers explain your illness to you? Please tell me about that

Try to discuss the information patients received:

- At the time of diagnosis
- During the course of their treatment
- Regarding prognosis
- Regarding side effects

H. TB Knowledge: Patient-related

21) Did you have enough information about TB? Where did you get information regarding TB? (e.g. from healthcare workers, friends, family, or internet?)

Tell me please what you know about TB:

- Mode of transmission
- Effectiveness of treatment
- Impact of missing treatment

I. Impact of TB

22) Has TB changed your life or the life of your family in any way? Can you tell me more about that?

Talk about:

- Relationships with family/friends/others
- Mental health
- Work or School
- Overall financial impact of TB

23) At the time you had TB, did you have any other health problem? How did having TB affect your other illness? And vice versa?

J. Conclusion

24) If you could think about changes to the process of TB treatment, what would you want to be done differently?

Thank you again for your participation.