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| **Proposed MTN-023 In-Depth Interview (IDI) Guide** **[Adapted from MTN 024 IDI Guide]** | **January 30, 2013** |
| **Thank you again for your willingness to participate in this interview.****Let’s begin.** |
| **HIV Risk Perception and Motivation for joining the study** |
| **First we are going to talk about joining the study and your feelings about HIV.** |
| 1. **What made you decide to join the study?**

*Possible probing topics:* * Services or benefits received for participating in trial
* Aspects of participant’s personal life
* Aspects of the community/the place where the participant lives
* Worries and concerns about HIV
* Altruism
* Interest/curiosity about the ring
* Financial compensation
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| 1. **What encouraged you to stay involved in the study?**

*Possible probing topics:* * Study staff
* Interest
* Altruism
* Services or Benefits
* Worries and concerns about HIV
* Financial compensation
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| **Product attributes** |
| **Next we are going to talk about the ring itself. We will discuss how the ring looks and feels and then your experience using it.** |
| **3. How would you describe your reaction when you saw the ring for the first time?***Possible probing topics:* * How did your feeling about the ring change over time
* Any changes after touching or holding (or smelling/feeling) the ring
* Any changes after first insertion
* Any changes after having used the ring for awhile
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| **4. Please describe how the ring feels inside of your body.** *Possible probing topics:* * Feeling upon initial insertion and once inside
* How aware of the ring participant was, circumstances or situations she felt more or less aware of the ring
* Any changes in participant’s body while using ring (e.g. vaginal dryness, discomfort during intercourse, incontinence (inability to hold in urine))
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| **5. What did you *like* about the ring? Why?** *Possible probing topics:* * Physical characteristics of the ring (e.g. color, shape, size, material)
* Convenience/ease of use
* Dosing (e.g. continuous use, episodic use)
* Partner’s reaction and attitude
* What do you like most about the ring?
	+ Physical characteristics of the ring (e.g. color, shape, size, material)
	+ Feeling inside
	+ Sex with ring
	+ Vaginal dryness/lubrication

**6.** **What did you *dislike*? Why?***Possible probing topics:* * Physical characteristics of the ring (e.g. color, shape, size, material)
* Inconvenience
* Dosing (e.g. continuous use, episodic use)
* Touching one’s genitals for insertion/removal
* Concerns about hygiene
* Partner’s reaction and attitude
* What do you dislike most about the ring?
	+ Physical characteristics of the ring (e.g. color, shape, size, material)
	+ Inconvenience of changing ring
	+ Feeling inside
	+ Sex with ring
	+ Vaginal dryness/lubrication
	+ Incontinence (feeling like you have to urinate)
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| **USE ATTRIBUTES** |
| **7. Please tell me about your experience using the ring.** *Possible probing topics:* * Experience of insertion, removal, or ring placement
* Did they check its position, once inserted (005, Q30IVR)
* Any concern about the ring “getting lost” once inserted (005, Q31IVR)
* Perception of how participant is supposed to be using the ring
* Comfort or concerns with ring cleanliness/ hygiene while wearing the ring (continuously)
* Ease/ difficulty keeping ring inserted between visits
* Experience with side effects as well as benefits from using the ring
* Need for assistance when inserting or removing the ring (easy/difficult to take out and reinsert on their own)
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| **8. Other than the times you were asked to remove the ring by study staff, did you ever remove the ring?** *Possible probing topics:* * When and how often did it happen (self-removal or accidental displacement)
* How long was it outside
* Focusing on a specific event, discuss the situation and circumstances when it was removed, what the participant did about it
* Removed before sex, after sex, during sex (005, Q18IVR)
* Removed before period, during period (005, Q16IVR)
* Removed at request of partner or to avoid partner learning about ring (005, Q10IVRH, Q10IVRD)
* While defecating, urinating (005, Q18IVR)
* Actual position they were in (squatting, standing, sitting, lying down) (005, Q19IVR)
* If re-inserted, the participant’s experience inserting the ring outside of the clinic setting, including whether it was cleaned and how
* Drug or alcohol use surrounding removal

**9. Did it ever come out on its own, either partially or fully?** * When and how often did it happen
* How long was it outside
* Focusing on a specific event, discuss the situation and circumstances when it came out or was removed, what the participant did about it
* While defecating, urinating (005, Q18IVR)
* Actual position they were in (squatting, standing, sitting, lying down) (005, Q19IVR)
* If re-inserted, the participant’s experience inserting the ring outside of the clinic setting, including whether it was cleaned and how
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| **10. Tell me about a specific time when you had a problem with the ring [other than it coming out or you taking it out].** *Possible probing topics:* * When the problem happened
* Circumstances surrounding problem
* Drug or alcohol use surrounding problem
* Persons or people associated with the problem
* If and how problem was resolved

**11. Was there any time in the study when you would have liked to stop using the ring or did?** *Probes:* Why? What happened? |
| **ATTITUDE of parents/caregivers, partners and peers** |
| **We now are going to discuss the reactions of other people in your life to the ring.**  |
| **12. Who have you told about using the ring? [If no one, skip to Q14]***Possible probing topics:** Primary sex partner, other sex partners, family members, friends, anyone else- what were their reactions
* Parents/caregivers
* Reasons for disclosure and nondisclosure
* How people found out, what was said, reactions, and the participant’s feelings about the disclosure
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| **13. [If told partner/s or parents/caregivers], What was your partner/parent/caregiver’s opinion of the ring?***Possible probing topics:** Parents’ reaction (supportive, concerned about HIV or sexual activity)
* Partner’s feelings about ring use, likes, dislikes, concerns/worries for herself/himself, for the participant, or for the relationship
* Level of support for ring use by primary sex partner, or other sex partners
* How accepting was the partner of ring use during sex (005, Q11IVR)
* How concerned was the partner about ring use during sex (005, Q10IVR)
* Disagreements/conflicts around ring use, including circumstances and resolution
* If multiple partners, opinion of other partners
* If female partners, opinion of them.
* If both female and male, did opinions differ
* Possible to use the ring without your partner knowing? Reasons for telling or not telling a partner
* Partner’s potential/actual reactions to using the ring without telling him/her
* Feelings about the importance of involving partners in decisions to use the ring and suggestions for engaging men (if applicable)
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|  **EFFECTS ON SEXUAL ENCOUNTER** |
| **In these next questions we will ask about your sexual activity and how the ring may have influenced your activity.** |
| **14. Can you tell me about your sexual activity before using the ring?** *Possible probing topics:** Type or number of sexual partners
* Frequency of sex
* Reasons for having sex
* Payment for sex or exchange of goods/money/clothes, etc
* Type of sex
* Any pain during sex
* Condom use for HIV/STD/pregnancy prevention
* Other family planning method use
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| **15. How would you say the ring influenced your sexual activity?***Possible probing topics:** Feeling/being aware of the ring during sex and changes in how the vagina feels
* Embarrassed or ashamed
* Physical or emotional changes with sex for her, for her partner
* Changes in sexual behaviors practiced, sexual positions, type or number of sexual partners, frequency of sex, reasons for having sex, etc.
* Ring effect on partner: his/her sexual experience/the sexual relationship
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| **Product Associated Norms** |
| **Next we will discuss other vaginal products and forms of HIV prevention.** |
| **16. What products or things do women you know typically use in their vagina?** *Possible probing topics:** How similar or different are these products from the study ring?
* What would other women you know think of the study ring?
* How might the ring interfere with these products or vaginal practices?
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| **17. What products or things do YOU typically use in your vagina?** *Possible probing topics:** Tampons, condoms, douching, fingers, sex toys, etc.
* Hygiene products like douches or sprays
* How similar or different are these products from the study ring?
* What would other women you know think of the study ring?
* How might the ring interfere with these products or vaginal practices?
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| **Compare with Condom Use** |
| **18. How does the ring compare with other products you have used to prevent HIV? [*If not sexually active, skip to Q19]*** *Possible probing topics:** Compared to male or female condoms
* Comfort or sensation with use, such as how natural/unnatural it feels
* How disruptive or discreet it is, how much it interferes with sex, life, or regular activities compared to other methods
* If ring was available to use for HIV prevention, how likely are they to use it every day? (005, Q14)
* What would you prefer to use for HIV prevention: condom or ring? Why is that? How about your partner? Why?
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| **Recommendations about study and ring**  |
| **Now, let’s discuss recommendations you may have about the study and the ring.** |
|  **19. How could we have improved your experience using the ring?***Possible probing topics:** Assess like/dislike of regular text message support and communication via text vs. phone or in person support
* Aspects of the instructional materials, or how the instructions were provided
* Counseling, support provided
* Dosing (episodic vs. continuous use)/frequency of replacement
* Changes in design of ring: physical characteristics, insertion or removal method, smell, feel, lubrication
* Changes in ring function: multi-purpose use (i.e. prevent pregnancy or other STI prevention as well)
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| 1. **If the ring is found to protect from HIV, do you think that other girls/ young women you know would use it for HIV prevention? What about you?**

*Possible probing topics:** Issues around access, storage, disposal, discreetness, concerns or issues with short term vs. long term use on health
* Concerns or issues with hygiene
* Who do you think would be interested in using a vaginal ring for HIV prevention?
* Who would not want to use it?
* Impact of parent/caregiver, partner, friends/peers, community or others individuals’ feelings about the ring
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| **Final Comments** |
| 1. **We have talked about many things today. Before we finish, do you have any questions for me or additional comments about your experience in the study or the discussion today?**
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| **Thank you for your time and your input. We appreciate your participation in this interview and the study in general.**  |