

SSK unique code _____

Interviewer initials _____

Date _____

PARTICIPANT CONSENT

Before we start I need to ensure that you **understand** the nature of the interview you are about to take part in and are happy to proceed.

This interview will involve me asking you **questions about your experience of being approached to consider using the HIV self-sampling kit, and your decision about using it**. We will also ask people who used the kit about their experience of using it. This interview should take around **30 minutes**. Your participation is **voluntary** and you may stop the interview at any point or refuse to answer any question with which you are not comfortable. You will be sent a **£10 voucher** at the end of the interview.

I would like to **audio-record** the interview: this is because I am not able to write down everything you say quickly enough.

The recording will be kept **strictly confidential** and no one outside of the HAUS study team will have access to it. When we are finished taking notes from the interview, the recording will be safely destroyed, so there will be no record of your voice or any of your identifying details remaining. In any report or presentation that we write about this study, **we may use some of your exact words, but we will do that in a way that makes sure no one could identify you**. In the future, other qualified researchers might also be allowed access to the written record of your interview, but not your recording. Before sharing the written copy we would remove any names or places from the written copy that could identify the person being interviewed.

- Do you have any questions about the interview?

Note any questions raised:

I would like to start the interview now which means turning on the recording is that ok? Yes No

I just need to ask you a few confirmation questions again so that we have an audio record of you saying that you are happy to go ahead based on what we have just discussed.

- We have just discussed what the interview is about, and how we will store the personal information you give us until it is destroyed. Are you fully aware what your participation involves?

Yes No

- Do you consent to the interview being digitally recorded?

Yes No

- Are you happy for us to get started?

Yes No

Section 1 – Kit distribution

- 1.1 Is being tested for HIV something that you had done or considered before you were asked to consider using this self-sampling kit?

[prompts: prior access to traditional HIV testing and associated benefits/challenges, personal considerations of risk]

- 1.2 Before you were approached to consider taking/using an HIV self-sampling kit, did you know that such kits were available?

[probes: prior thoughts about SSKs/change in thinking/immediate response when learning about them for the first time]

1.3 Can you think about the time you were offered this kit and let me know what do you recall about it?

[prompts: location, distributor characteristics, what was said]

1.4 How did you feel about being offered an HIV test because you are African?

Why/why not?

1.5 How did you feel about being offered an HIV test in [location]?

Why/why not?

1.6 Why did you agree to consider using the kit?

[prompts: relevance of distributor characteristics/information; personal reasons, convenience]

Section 2 – Kit Use and Sample return

2.1 Did you actually open the kit and attempt to use it?

ø No - Why was that?

ø Yes - Tell me how that went and what you thought of using the kit.

2.2 In the end, you *did [OR] did not* return the sample. How did you return it? Did you have any issues with that?

[probes: confidence, privacy, kit characteristics]

2.2a We did not ask people to put their names on the sample vial. If you had been asked to put your name on it, would you have been happy to do so?

2.3 ****only ASK if sample was returned****

How did you feel about the way that your test results were communicated to you?

Section 3 – Implications of this approach

3.1 Would you be willing to use the same kind of HIV self-sampling kit in the future?

- Why/why not?

- Are there particular circumstances that would influence your decision?
What are they?

3.2 What was your overall experience of using this kit to test for HIV? Please tell me what you liked, and what you think needs to be changed.

[prompts: consider this in relation to the discussion/the kit/the sample return/communicating the results/being targeted]

3.3 In your view, do you think other black African people like you would like to use a kit like this to find out their HIV status?

- Why do you feel that way?
- Is that the same for everyone, or are there some for whom this is a better or worse option

3.4 Do you think there are other ways, and maybe even better ways to encourage more black African people to test for HIV regularly?

3.5 Is there anything else you would like to say before we finish the interview?

That is the end of the interview.

Thank you very much for your time and your openness.

[explain how voucher will be sent – confirm email address]

[give website address: www.HAUS.org.uk in case they want to keep up with study findings]