

FIRST ENCOUNTER

WELCOME SCRIPT:

Hi my name is ----- . Getting a diagnosis of HIV can be difficult. I am here to support you so that you can learn about HIV and the different services that are available for you. I also want to stress to you that everything you tell me is confidential. I will not share your status with anyone. I will not share what you tell me with anyone else except with those who will provide you with medical care. These are the rules I must follow. Feelings of being nervous or scared can be quite common. How are you feeling? (*Give patient time to share their feelings.*)

There are some things I would like to tell you about HIV. Although there is no cure, HIV can be treated. The treatment can help people living with HIV to live long healthy lives. I am here to help teach you about that treatment and where you can get it. Each person's treatment plan is different and the process for accessing treatment may be confusing at times. I can help answer your questions and guide you through the process. Your health is important to me!

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- What questions do you have for me?
- Is there anything you are worried about?

NEXT STEPS:

1. Discuss next steps in treatment plan
2. Escort the patient to see a clinician
3. If client starts ART the same day – use the 'STARTING ART' script to ensure you cover all key points
4. If client does not start ART the same day – schedule a date for him/her to return to clinic and confirm the 'Locator Data' in the Linkage Register

STARTING ART

KEY POINTS TO DISCUSS:

- Steps person will take to enroll in ART:
 - Confirmatory HIV test
 - Evaluation by clinician/nurse
 - Register for ART (i.e. receive an ART number)
 - Collecting medication (ART and CPT)
 - What to expect at future appointments
- What HIV is and what it is doing to the body
- What ART is and how it is helping the body
- Importance of a guardian and them attending the first six months of appointments with you
- ART – dosage, side effects and techniques to remember to take it
- ART adherence and resistance
- Viral load
- Prevention techniques
- Testing family members
- Positive living

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- What questions do you have for me about starting ART?
- Is there anything you are worried about?
- Do you have family members you would like to have tested for HIV?
- What techniques do you plan to use to help you remember to take your ART?

NEXT STEPS:

- Ensure patient understands what will happen at their next appointment.
- Record their next appointment into the Appointment Register
- Complete the 'Enrolment into ART Care' section of the Linkage Register.



SPECIAL ISSUES FOR PREGNANT AND BREASTFEEDING WOMEN



KEY POINTS TO DISCUSS:

- Starting ART immediately and taking it for life
- ART side effects and dosing
- Disclosure to spouse
- Exposed infant care
 - Mother staying adherent to her ART
 - NVP – dosage, starting immediately after birth, side effects
 - CPT – dosage and importance
 - Exclusive breastfeeding
 - Infant testing
 - If child is found HIV+



FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- What questions do you have for me?
- Is there anything you are worried about?
- Do you understand the importance of starting your ART immediately and taking it for life?



NEXT STEPS:

- Refer patient to clinician/nurse if they have any questions you cannot answer.
- Make a note of any potential issues or barriers patient may face on their MasterCard.

SPECIAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN



KEY POINTS TO DISCUSS:

- Importance of two caregivers
- Importance of supervision and encouragement
- Difference between adult and pediatric ART regimens
- Disclosure to the child
- Importance of getting weight at every visit to monitor growth and dosage
- Talking to your child about HIV, not lying to the child
- Importance of attending all regular under-five and immunization appointments
- If child is less than two years old:
 - Confirmatory testing at 1 and 2 years old
 - Exclusive breastfeeding until 6 months and weaning at 2 years
 - Importance of mother's adherence to her ART



FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- What questions do you have for me about your child being HIV-infected?
- Is there anything you are worried about?
- Do you have someone in mind to act as a second caregiver?
- Do you understand the difference between adult and pediatric ART regimens?



NEXT STEPS:

- Refer patient to clinician/nurse if they have any questions you cannot answer.
- Make a note of any potential issues or barriers patient may face on their PMTCT MasterCard.

ADHERENCE

KEY POINTS TO DISCUSS:

- Barriers and reasons to why they are not adherent
- Potential solutions to barriers
- Resistance
- Importance of ART for a healthy life and to reduce transmission to others
- Techniques to use to remember to take ART
- Support system and guardian

REMEMBER:

Do NOT yell at your patients. It can be difficult to take medication every day. Instead be supportive and try to improve their adherence by working through their barriers!

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- What questions do you have for me about adherence?
- Is there anything you are worried about?
- Do you understand the importance of taking ART both for yourself and others?
- What techniques do you plan to use to help you remember to take your ART?

NEXT STEPS:

- Make notes of key barriers patient is facing on their MasterCard.
- Make a note in your diary for their next clinic appointment and ensure that they attend and/or you are present to assist them.

DISCLOSURE

KEY POINTS TO DISCUSS:

- Importance of disclosure
- Possible outcomes of disclosure
- Their barriers to disclosure
- Potential solutions to barriers
- Methods of disclosure
- The health facility staff can help you disclose

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- What questions do you have for me about disclosure?
- Is there anything you are worried about?
- Do you feel more confident now about disclosing?
- What do you think is a good plan for you to disclose?

NEXT STEPS:

- Refer patient to clinician/nurse if they have any questions you cannot answer.
- Make a note of any potential issues or barriers patient may face on their MasterCard.