

**MATRIX-002: Participant In-Depth Interview Guide**  
**Trial to Assess Acceptability and Safety of Two Placebo Prototype Vaginal Films**

Version 1.0, 2June2023

<i>[Start Recorder and Read Introduction]:</i>		
My name is _____. Thank you again for your willingness to be in this study. The main goal of this conversation-style interview today is to better understand your experience participating in this study and using the vaginal film. I want to remind you that there are no right or wrong answers, and what we discuss here will be kept confidential; we will not share your personal information or responses with anyone outside of the study.		
	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Probes</b>
<b>1. Introductory Questions</b>		
<i>To begin our conversation, I would like us to talk about the community that you live in. This will help me get an understanding and background of your community.</i>		
1.1	Please tell me about the community you live in.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roles of women and men in your community</li> <li>• Who is generally responsible for making sexual health decisions in your community?</li> <li>• Community attitudes on HIV prevention</li> <li>• Community attitudes on vaginal products (including for non-HIV prevention purposes)</li> </ul>
1.2	And how about you – what is your life like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education/work</li> <li>• Household/family</li> <li>• Social life</li> </ul>
<b>2. Context of HIV prevention in your community</b>		
2.1	Tell me about the methods or products you have used to prevent HIV?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let us discuss what you have used.</li> <li>• Why did you choose this option?</li> <li>• What did you like about it?</li> <li>• What did you dislike about it?</li> <li>• Why did you not choose a different strategy?</li> </ul>
2.2	Can you describe a situation or relationships where you felt you may have used something to prevent HIV but you did not?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What stopped you from using something to prevent HIV? (e.g., cost, privacy)</li> <li>• Challenges with using HIV prevention consistently?</li> </ul>
<b>3. General Vaginal Film Use</b>		
<i>We are now going to talk about your experiences in the study, and we want to hear about your experience with the film. Remember, we are still developing this product so you should feel free to tell us about what you liked and disliked, and what changes you would make to the product as well. This information will be shared with the scientists developing the film and they are eager to learn from you about what you experienced. Your opinions are important to them in designing a product that women would like to use.</i>		
3.1	What were your initial impressions of the film before you used it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What would others in your community think about it?</li> </ul>
3.2	Overall, how did you feel about inserting the film into your vagina?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many insertions/attempts did you make when inserting for the very first time? Describe how you inserted it (what worked, what was difficult?).</li> <li>• How about any differences between the 1<sup>st</sup> month and 2<sup>nd</sup> month?</li> <li>• Did you encounter any challenges and/or success?</li> <li>• Did you feel comfortable with vaginal film insertion?</li> <li>• Did you feel confident with how you placed it in your vagina?</li> </ul>

3.3	Describe your experience using the vaginal film over the past two months. How did it go for you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before you started using the film, what did you expect the experience to be like? Did you have any concerns prior to use?</li> <li>• How did those expectations or concerns play out compared to using the films over the last 2 months?</li> <li>• Did it get easier or harder to use the film over time? Why?</li> <li>• What kinds of challenges did you experience?</li> <li>• Did you get help with the film from the study clinician or counsellor during your time in the study? In what ways?</li> <li>• Did anything about the film surprise you when you were using it? [<i>probe</i>: in positive ways and in ways that you did not like].</li> <li>• Did you ever notice any of the film coming out of your vagina? Describe (activities engaged in, circumstances of noticing film, timing post-insertion).</li> </ul>
3.4	Did you experience any side effects while using the film? Describe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What changes did you notice in your vaginal environment? (e.g., wetness, dryness, discharge) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Anything done to manage changes?</li> <li>○ How she felt about the changes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.5	What are your overall opinions about the vaginal film now that you have used it for two months?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What aspects of the product have worked well for you? What did not work well (challenges/dislikes)?</li> <li>• What did you think about the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ size</li> <li>○ shape</li> <li>○ texture</li> <li>○ colour</li> <li>○ method of insertion</li> <li>○ perceived protection from this type of technology</li> <li>○ monthly duration (of use)</li> <li>○ film insertion instruction pamphlet</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**4. Vaginal Film Discreetness and Disclosure**

*I would now like to ask you questions about your decisions regarding disclosing your use of the vaginal film to others and discreet (or private) use of the vaginal film.*

4.1	<p>Using the vaginal film in this study is a personal choice, and some people may keep their use of the film to themselves, while others may prefer to disclose their vaginal film use to other people.</p> <p>Who did you tell about using the vaginal film?</p>	<p>If disclosed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To whom did you disclose? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did you tell them about the film?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How did they respond to your disclosure?</li> <li>• Why did you disclose?</li> </ul> <p>If not disclosed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why did you choose not to disclose?</li> <li>• [If sexual partner is not mentioned probe specifically the reason/s for not disclosing]</li> </ul>
4.2	How important was it for you that you could use the vaginal film discreetly, i.e., without others knowing (even if you did disclose to others)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were there any times where someone found out about your vaginal film use without you telling them? How did they find out?</li> <li>• Were you nervous that other people would find out? How did you handle this over the study?</li> </ul>

**5. Life Fit and Relationship Fit**

*Now I am going to ask you questions about how the vaginal film fit into your life in general as well as in a few key ways, including your sexual relationship with your partner. Please remember that whatever you tell me will remain confidential, so please feel free to share anything you feel comfortable talking about.*

5.1	Can you tell me more about your current sexual partner?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What kind of relationship are you in?</li> <li>• How often do you see each other?</li> <li>• How easy/difficult is it for you to make your own decisions and choices about sex and health in this relationship? What makes it easy/difficult for you?</li> </ul>
5.2	How did the film fit in (or not) with your sexual relationship?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How did the film affect your sex life overall while you were in the study?</li> <li>• We know it isn't always possible to follow all the instructions in studies like this: how did it go to refrain from sex (and using other vaginal products) during the first month?</li> <li>• What was it like to have sex with the film in? Describe the experience.</li> <li>• In what ways, if any, did it affect sexual pleasure (for you and your partner)?</li> <li>• Did your partner say anything about what it was like for them?</li> <li>• What role did your sexual partner have in your liking – or not liking - the film?</li> <li>• How did your sexual partner support you, if at all? In what ways did you find them unsupportive?</li> <li>• How did your sexual partner give you worries or stress about the film?</li> </ul>
5.3	Can you tell me how the vaginal film fit – or did not fit - into your life?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What adjustments, if any, did you make to your life when using the film? Did any of this change over time for you?</li> <li>• How did using the film affect your use of menstrual products? Your hygiene or cleansing?</li> <li>• How did using the film affect your use of other vaginal products?</li> </ul> <p><i>[For changes noted: How did you feel about these changes? How did you adjust to them]</i></p>
5.4	Who else had influence on your use of the vaginal film over the last 2 months?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other sexual partner(s), friends, family, others in the community?</li> <li>• What was it like?</li> <li>• How did they change your attitudes and behaviours?</li> <li>• Are there any myths associated with using these kinds of products?</li> <li>• Are there any beliefs (religious/traditional) that are associated with using these kinds of products?</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Messaging and Future Use</b></p> <p><i>Now we are going to talk about your factors that would make the vaginal film an option that women would choose to use in the future. Remember that this vaginal film is still in its developmental stage, so your input and knowledge as someone who tried the vaginal film for the past two months is very important and valuable to us.</i></p>		
6.1	<p>You have used the product for two months and have a good sense of what it is like to use it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What would appeal to women in your community about using this vaginal film?</li> <li>• What concerns or questions do you think women in your community would have?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How would women in your community feel about the discreetness of using the film? What about the design and look of the film? What about the color and texture of the film?</li> <li>• How do you think other women would view inserting the film once a month?</li> </ul>
6.2	<p>What did you think of the packaging of the vaginal film?</p> <p><i>[Demonstration packaging available]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did really you like about the packing for the film? Describe.</li> <li>• What did really you not like about how the film was packaged? Describe.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think about how easy/hard it would be to keep the packaged films private?</li> <li>• <i>How easy/hard would it be to take the packaged film with you if you are traveling away from home?</i></li> <li>• What suggestions do you have for how you would have liked the film to be packaged?</li> </ul>
6.3	<p>Now, think way ahead into the future: If the vaginal film is shown to prevent HIV in future studies where it has medication in it - and makes it into the market, would you consider using vaginal film? Why or why not?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much would you prefer it to cost? [Insert relevant country currency] What is the most you would be willing to pay per month for the film?</li> <li>• Where would you like to get it from and what are your reasons for preferring this type of location(s) (e.g., clinic, pharmacy)</li> <li>• We know it will take some time for the film to dissolve and start to work after being inserted in the vagina. The person using the film should not have sex while it starts to dissolve. How long would you be willing to wait after inserting it, before having sex?</li> </ul>
6.4	<p>The scientists developing this film for HIV prevention are also working on a film that could prevent HIV and pregnancy at the same time. It would have two drugs in it so would be a “2-in-1” film. What are your thoughts about that concept?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What appeals to you about a 2-in-1 film?</li> <li>• Does anything bother or raise concerns for you about a 2-in-1 film?</li> <li>• What questions do you have about this idea?</li> </ul>
6.5	<p>Remember that we said this vaginal film is still being developed, we are interested in hearing your thoughts about any important changes we could make to this product that would make it better and easier to use for women like you.</p> <p><i>[For example, in this study we used two films with different shapes (rounded and squared corners). This was in response to other research where women had different opinions about the film's shape.]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think of this one you used compared with this one? (Show example of two film designs and packaging)</li> <li>• Which one do you prefer and why?</li> <li>• If the film had been made like this (e.g., square), how might it affect how you feel about the film?</li> <li>• How might it affect how you use the film?</li> <li>• What other design changes to the film or ideas would you like the scientists developing it to consider?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How important would these changes be to you?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6.6	<p>If you had an opportunity to change how the vaginal film is used or how it looks or feels, how would you change it?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What would those changes do – why would you make them?</li> </ul>
<b>7. Conclusion</b>		
7.1	<p>Thank you, you have answered my questions. We appreciate all that you've shared today. Your experiences are important, and you sharing so openly during this interview is really valuable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinking about your overall experience during the study, is there anything else that you think it would be helpful for us to know?</li> </ul> <p>Thank you for taking the time to share your opinions with me today. We really appreciate your time.</p>	

Staff initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (dd/mm/yyyy)