

## VIGTARC Qualitative Study

### Guidance for Focus Group Discussion with Patients

#### 1. Introduction

We are [NAME] and [NAME], data collectors working for a research project to provide curing treatment of malaria with frequent relapses (Pv malaria) implemented by an organization (Health and Social Development) in collaboration with the National Malaria Program and local health authorities. In addition to the routinely collected data, the project evaluation requires additional information from different people involved in the project to draw lessons learned for further improvement and scaling up.

As you are all key persons involved in this project as a patient with relapsing malaria, we would like to discuss with you about your experience with the project, care and treatment you have received from the project support through VMW and HC. This discussion will take about 90 minutes. It is purely anonymous and confidential. All identifying information like name of participants will not be linked to anything they say in reports and presentations.

If you all allow, I would like to start the discussion now. In order to make sure that we don't miss things you tell us, we would like to audiotape this discussion if you give permission. The recording will be deleted after the data is used.

I [NAME] will moderate the discussion and my colleague [NAME] will take notes and manage the audiotape.

Before starting, I would like to explain you about the process of the discussion as follows:

- Everyone will have chance to talk, but only one person will talk at once
- I will pose question or introduce topic one by one and you are to answer or give your ideas
- If someone wants to talk, please raise your hand
- Feel free to talk openly and honestly, even negative points
- But please respect each other confidentiality among us

#### 2. About the participants

- First, I would like to ask each of you to introduce yourself with) name, ii) age iii) how many episodes of malaria iii) how many episodes of relapsing malaria (Pv), iv) when was the last episode of Pv. Vivax; and v) was the last episode of Pv happening before or after the curing treatment

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Episodes of malaria (in the past 2 years)	Episodes of Pv (in the past 2 years)	Date of the last episode of Pv (month/year)
1						
2						
3						
4						

5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

### 3. Understanding about malaria & P. vivax generally

First, we would like to learn about your understanding on different types of malaria, the symptoms, how they are treated and whether they can come back after being treated.

- Please tell me what you know about malaria. Prompt – types of malaria?
- Difference between Pf and Pv
- How to know if someone has malaria?
- What medicine used to treat malaria? Any particular preference for medicines to treat malaria?
- Does malaria sometimes come back after treatment? Why? How to stop it coming back?

### 4. Impact of P. vivax malaria

- We would like to understand from you how much relapsing malaria (P. vivax) impacted on (causing trouble to) you and your family. Please can you share with us your experiences?
  - How big or little is the impact of P. vivax compared to other problems

### 5. Experience of the care and treatment they had received for relapsing malaria (Pv)

- We would like you to briefly describe step by step the process from the time you get advice to go for testing at health center until the end of the treatment
- Please tell us about your view on the process – was there any part you felt uncomfortable with and which part you were happy with?
- Other questions to probe:
  - How (from whom) do you know about the curing treatment of relapsing malaria?
  - What reasons made you decide to go to HC for testing and treatment?
  - If there are patients who could not enroll at the first time s/he was proposed (by VMW or HC staff), ask for the reasons why
  - Who has had a test at HC before getting the curing treatment (try to exclude malaria diagnostic test if any)? Did they told you what was the test and for what? Were they told about the result and what was that?
  - How many days/weeks and doses of medicines to cure relapsing malaria (primaquine) did they have to take?
  - For medicines to treat Pv 14 daily doses (if possible show them the blister of PQ), ask them if they have taken the medicines every day for the 14 days with all tablets as recommended. If not every day or not all tablets as recommended, ask why. During the 14 days, how many times VMW met you and saw you drinking medicines?

- Were they advised to look out for side effects? What side effects? Did they experience any side effects? During the time you take medicines, were there anything wrong with you or signs of side effects of medicines? If any, please describe
- If there was a one dose treatment available, would they prefer to take that instead of 14 days?
- If there are other patients with relapsing malaria (*P. vivax*), would they recommend them to go for HC for testing, care and treatment? Why?
- Following their experience with the project, in testing, counselling, treatment and follow ups, what do they think about the strengths and weaknesses and any suggestions for improvement?