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### **Interview schedule: The experiences of out-patient substance abuse treatment in the City of Cape Town, between 2010-2015: a service user's perspective.**

#### Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this study. This study seeks to explore the experiences of service users who had been exposed to out-patient substance abuse treatment provided by the City of Cape Town. This study furthermore aims to identify those variables and potential challenges experienced by service users during treatment, which impact on service users' recovery. Exploring the effectiveness of substance abuse treatment is fundamental in light of the significant social and economic consequences thereof. The efforts to address the problem require empirical research activities to explore the effectiveness of the out-patient treatment programmes as a means of intervention from the service users' perspective. Your participation in this study will assist in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the service to contribute to improving out-patient substance abuse treatment.

I would like to ask you some questions about your experiences in the out-patient substance abuse treatment programme. Firstly, I will ask background questions about your age, employment status, marital status and level of education. The second part of the interview will involve questions regarding your experiences with substance use and how you entered the programme. Lastly, I will ask questions about your experiences in the programme and how it impacted on your life after completing treatment. The interview will take about an hour long.

Background information:

1. How old are you?
2. What is your marital status?
3. What is your employment status? If unemployed, when last were you employed?
4. What is your highest level of education?
5. Who do you live with?
6. Do you have dependents?

History of substance use:

7. When did you first use substances and how did this come about?
8. Which substances did you use at first and have you used any other substances since the onset?
9. How did your loved ones come to learn about your substance use?
10. At which point did you realize that you have limited control over using, if at all?
11. How did substance use impact on your life?

Experience of the out-patient substance abuse programme:

12. How did you become aware of the programme and how did you decide to enter the programme?
13. What did you think about substance abuse treatment before entering the programme?
14. How did you experience the programme compared to what you thought before entering?
15. What was beneficial to you about the programme?
16. As a person in recovery, what was the most difficult part of the out-patient programme?
17. If you could change anything about the programme, what would it be?
18. How has your life changed after receiving treatment, if at all?