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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Dear Participant

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to talk to you about this research. What follows is an explanation of the purpose of the research and an explanation of what will happen and what is expected of you if you agree to participate. The research is being conducted for a min-thesis which is a requirement for a Masters Degree in Public Health; which I'm pursuing with the University of the Western Cape. If there is anything that you don't understand or not clear about, please do not hesitate to ask me. My contact details and that of my supervisors are recorded at the end of this memo.

TITLE OF RESEARCH

Barriers to adherence to antiretroviral therapy among adult patients in a rural hospital in the Eastern Cape.

PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF INTERVIEW

The research will explore the barriers to antiretroviral drug adherence. It is hoped that with your participation, a better understanding of some barriers affecting HIV positive patients that receive ART from a particular hospital will be gained. I plan to do interviews with HIV

positive patients who are on ART, and this is the reason why you have been selected. By interviewing people like yourself I hope to gain better information about how you take your tablets and what makes it difficult or prevents you from taking your ART tablets. I will not ask many questions and it would be better if we have a conversation about your experiences in taking the ART drugs.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AND YOUR INVOLVEMENT

INTERVIEW PROCESS

An in-depth interview will be done and this will only take a short time. Notes will be taken and tape recording will be done. Recording will be done to enable all information to be captured even if it was missed when note taking.

CONFIDENTIALITY

During the interview there will be no use of names. A code will be used instead of your name. The discussions between you and me will be confidential. I shall keep all records of your participation and our discussions including a signed consent which I will need to get from you once you accept to participate in this research study, under lock and key at all times and will destroy them probably a year after the research is completed. You will not be identified in the written reports as they contain no names.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary, that is you may or may not want to participate. If you choose to participate, you may stop at any time. You may also choose not to answer particular questions in the study that you feel uncomfortable with. If there is anything that you would prefer not to discuss, please feel free to say so.

BENEFITS AND COSTS

You may not get any direct benefit from this study. However the information we will learn from participants in this study will contribute towards identifying barriers to antiretroviral drug adherence in ART services which can guide on what targeted strategies can be implored to address the situation. Transport allowance and refreshments will be provided.

INFORMED CONSENT (AGREEMENT)

Your signed consent (thumb print for those who cannot write) to participate and to be audio-recorded in this research is requested before I can proceed to interview you. I have included the consent form with this information sheet so that you can review the consent form and then decide whether you would like to participate in this study or not.

QUESTIONS

Should you have further questions or wish to know more, I can be contacted as follows:

Akusoba Kenechukwu

Student No. 2816222

Cell No: 0769768475, 0833784773

E-mail: kakuzoba@yahoo.com

My supervisor's contact details are as follows:

Prof. Brian Van Wyk

University of the Western Cape

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INFORMED CONSENT

Thank you for agreeing to allow me to interview you. I am Akusoba Kenechukwu a student at the School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape. As part of my Masters in Public Health, I am required to do a research study. I will be exploring barriers that cause poor adherence of antiretroviral drugs. I am accountable to Dr. Brian Van Wyk who is contactable at Fax: +2721 959 2872, Tel., email: bvanwyk@uwc.ac.za or at University of the Western Cape, Private Bag X17, Bellville 7535, South Africa.

**TITLE OF THE RESEARCH:
BARRIERS TO ADHERENCE TO ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY AMONG
ADULT PATIENTS IN A HOSPITAL IN THE EASTERN CAPE.**

As mentioned in the Participant Information Sheet: Participation in this research study is entirely voluntary, that is you may or may not want to participate. Refusal to participate or withdrawal from the study will not result in penalty or any loss of benefit to which you are otherwise entitled.

If you choose to participate you may stop at any time. You may also choose not to answer particular questions that are asked in the study. If there is anything that you prefer not to discuss please feel free to say so

The discussion and information collected in this study will be kept strictly confidential.

If you choose to participate in this study, your signed informed consent will be required before I proceed with the interview with you.

I have read/it has been read to me the information about this research study on the Participant's Information Sheet. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about it and any questions I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction.

I voluntarily consent to be a participant and be audio-recorded in this research study and understand that I have the right to end the interview/recording at any time, and choose not to answer particular questions that are asked in the study.

My signature indicates that I'm willing to participate and be recorded in this research.

Participants Name: _____

Participants Signature/Thumb print: _____ **Date:** _____

Interviewers Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

APPENDIX 3

INTERVIEW GUIDE WITH ART PARTICIPANTS

These questions are only the themes as in-depth interviewing will probe for more information to get a more detailed and rich information.

May you please tell me what you know about ART? (Probe for more specifics)

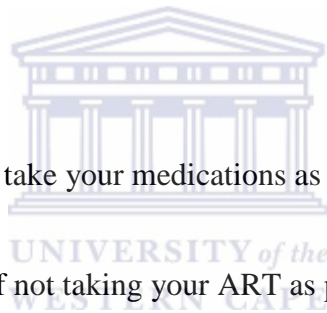
Tell me about your experience of being on ART?

Can you explain perceptions before you started ART and perceptions now that you are on ART?

What makes it difficult for you to take your medications as prescribed?

Do you know the consequences of not taking your ART as prescribed?

What are the things that could be done to improve on you taking ART as prescribed?





UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE

**OFFICE OF THE DEAN DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH
DEVELOPMENT**

04 September 2012

To Whom It May Concern

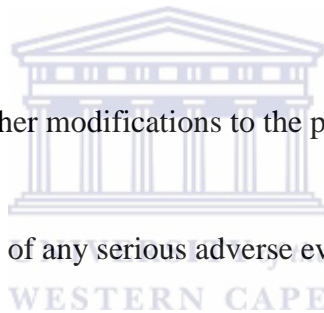
I hereby certify that the Senate Research Committee of the University of the Western Cape has approved the methodology and ethics of the following research project by:
Mr K Akusoba (School of Public Health)

Research Project: Exploratory study of the barriers to adherence to antiretroviral therapy among adult patients in Empilisweni Hospital in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa

Registration no: 12/7/12

Any amendments, extension or other modifications to the protocol must be submitted to the Ethics Committee for approval.

The Committee must be informed of any serious adverse event and/or termination of the study.



*Ms Patricia Josias
Research Ethics Committee Officer
University of the Western Cape*

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A place of quality,
a place to grow, from hope
to action through knowledge