

SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

STUDY TITLE: *EVALUATION OF MOLECULAR POINT-OF-CARE XPERT XPRESS SARS-CoV-2 DETECTION IMPLEMENTATION IN RESOURCE LIMITED SETTINGS*

My name is _____. I am working with the National Institute for Medical Research at Korogwe Research Station/Research Institute for Health Sciences [*Introduce other colleagues*]. We are doing research to explore the operational feasibility and implementation of Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2/Flu/RSV for the detection of COVID-19 in decentralized test laboratories and health facilities. The main goal is to bring testing services for COVID-19 close enough to the community instead of relying on tests being carried out at National Reference Labs which is not only time consuming but also does not provide results on timely manner. The present study is being conducted in two countries including Tanzania (led by NIMR) and Burkina Faso (led by IRSS). We are interviewing you to gain a better understanding of your views in relation to the following;

1. Advantages and disadvantages of the (point of care) POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test in screening and identifying COVID-19 cases.
2. The additional value of the (point of care) POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test at decentralised facilities and laboratories apart from reliance on the National Reference lab for SARS-CoV-2 screening.
3. The influence of the POC test on the epidemic response, in terms of case detection, contact tracing and isolation to control the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 virus and subsequent spread of COVID-19 cases.
4. The influence of the (point of care) POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test on clinical action such as prescription of antiviral medication, antibiotics, additional testing and patients' satisfaction.

Please note that participation in this interview is entirely voluntary; you have the right to refuse to respond to any or all questions or stop the interview at any time for any reason. The interview will consist of open-ended questions and should take approximately 30-45 minutes. Please rest assured that your responses will always remain confidential, that means, the information will not be used to identify you as a respondent. When used, it will only be part of a general description. With your permission, I would like to audio record the interview

between you and our study team. Alternatively, you may choose not to have your voice recorded. In that case, I will be recording your responses in writing.

Please let's begin.

I will be the Main Interviewer and [insert name] will be my Research Assistant.

Thank you very much for agreeing to participate in this study. It's a pleasure to be with you today.

SECTION ONE: Personal background

1. Please tell us a little bit about yourself, talk about your profession/educational background
2. Tell us a little about your roles / daily responsibilities in this health facility
3. Can you tell us, for how long have you been doing this work?

SECTION TWO: General experience on COVID-19

1. Have you ever heard about COVID-19?
2. What do you know about the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19?
3. Tell us a bit about the symptoms of COVID-19
4. How can someone protect him/herself from being infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus and contract COVID-19?
5. What is the testing process for COVID-19?
6. How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted general clinical procedures and laboratory testing?

SECTION THREE: Advantages, disadvantages and familiarity of the POC Xpert

Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test

1. What type of lab work and equipment are you familiar with handling?
2. Are you aware of lab equipment in use for TB/HIV programmes?
3. What tests are performed by Gene Xpert platform?
4. What are the advantages of Gene Xpert platform compared to other POCs?
5. Which Lab equipments/machines have you ever used to test a COVID-19 patient?
6. Have you ever heard about POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test?
7. Have you yourself ever used it to test COVID-19 samples?

8. What are the advantages of using POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test in testing COVID-19 samples
 - Probe about the quality of POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test in testing COVID-19 samples
 - Probe about the ease use of POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test in examining COVID-19 samples
 - Probe about the ability of POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test in giving quick and accurate results for COVID-19 samples
9. What are the disadvantages of the POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test in testing COVID-19 samples
 - Probe about the weakness of POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test in testing COVID-19 samples
 - Probe about the difficulty of using POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test in testing COVID-19 samples
 - Probe about the efficiency of POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test in giving correct and timely results for suspected COVID-19 patient samples

SECTION FOUR: The additional value of the POC test at decentralized facilities and laboratories

1. Do you think POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test can be used at decentralized facilities and laboratories (laboratories at Regional and District levels apart from the national reference labs)?
 - Probe about the statistical evidence which will be required
 - Probe about the administrative process before getting approval to be used for routine testing
2. In general, what additional benefits/values does the POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test can have in testing suspected COVID-19 patient samples

SECTION FIVE: The influence of the POC on the COVID-19 epidemic response

1. How helpful do you think POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test can be on the epidemic response in terms of case detection, contact tracing and isolation to control COVID-19?
 - Probe, why do you think so?

2. Do you think POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 is user friendly in testing COVID-19 samples? Why do you think so?
3. Do you think POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 can be used in different environments in times of emergency to test COVID-19 samples (rural/urban settings, winter/summer/rain seasons, tropical regions/arid and semi arid regions) and still give accurate and reliable results?
4. Please take us through your own experience of using POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test especially during the period when COVID-19 was flourishing in terms of case detection, contact tracing and isolation to control COVID-19

SECTION SIX: The influence of POC test on clinical action such as prescription of antiviral medication, antibiotics, additional testing and patient satisfaction.

1. How helpful do you think POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test can be? on clinical action such as prescription of antiviral medication, antibiotics, additional testing and patient satisfaction?
2. What is your own experience in using POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test in helping you to make clinical decisions such as prescription of antiviral medication, antibiotics, additional testing and patient satisfaction?
3. In general what do you think will be your recommendation to another health care worker regarding POC Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test in helping him/her to make clinical decisions such as prescription of antiviral medication, antibiotics, additional testing and patient satisfaction? Why do you think so?

SECTION SEVEN: Free opinion

1. Is there anything else you'd like to say about today's topic?
2. Do you have any question/s regarding what we have been discussing?

If you have any questions at a later time, please feel free to contact Dr. Daniel Thomas Minja/ Marc Christian Tahita through the information included in the informed consent form.

Thank you!