

# In-Depth Qualitative Interview Guide for Physicians Using Cholera RDTs in Nepal

## Introduction

### Introduction

- Introduce yourself and the purpose of the interview.
- Review the consent form for the interview and obtain a signature.

### Icebreaker/Background

1. What are your main responsibilities as a clinician at this facility?
  - a. Probe: How long have you been practicing medicine?
2. What is your experience with treating cholera patients?

### Section 1: Awareness of RDTs

1. How did you first hear about rapid diagnostic tests for cholera (called RDTs)?
2. How did you find out that RDTs were available in this health facility?
3. What was your initial reaction to the cholera RDTs?
  - a. Probe about positive reactions and negative reactions

### Section 2: Training on RDTs

2. How did you learn about cholera RDTs? (If they don't know about RDTs, ask: How do you normally learn about new diagnostic tests that become available?)
  - a. Probe: What kind of training did you receive? What kind of instructional materials did you receive?
  - b. What topics were covered in the training?
4. What did you find most helpful about the training/instruction you received?
5. What could have been improved about the training?
6. What additional training/support would have been useful?

### Section 3: Adoption of RDTs in Clinical Practice

1. Think about the last time you had a patient who you suspected might have cholera. Can you tell me the story about what happened, from the time that you met the patient until the patient was discharged? (If they have never encountered a cholera patient, ask: What would you do if you saw a patient that might have cholera?)
  - a. In what ways was that case similar to what normally happens?
  - b. In what ways was that case different from what normally happens?
  - c. Why [did you/didn't you] decide to order an RDT for that patient?
2. Can you describe the process that you normally follow when you see a suspect cholera patient?  
Probe if not mentioned:
  - d. Which tests do you order?
  - e. How do you decide whether to order a cholera RDT?
  - f. What is the process for ordering an RDT?
  - g. How do you find out about the RDT results?
  - h. What do you do with the results?
  - i. How do you treat the patient?

3. How have cholera RDTs changed the way you evaluate/treat suspected cholera patients, if at all?

#### Section 4: Correct Usage of RDTs

1. What motivates you to order cholera RDTs?  
Probe if needed:
  - j. What facilitates your use of cholera RDTs?
  - k. What do others do to encourage you to order cholera RDTs? (i.e., facility in-charge, EDCD staff, etc.)
2. What prevents you from ordering cholera RDTs?  
Probe if needed:
  - l. What other challenges have you faced related to cholera RDTs?
2. How difficult is it for you to know when to order a cholera RDT?
1. In your experience, how often do clinicians in this facility order cholera RDTs for patients with cholera symptoms?
  - a. How are the cholera RDTs perceived by clinicians?
2. In your experience, in what ways are cholera RDTs sometimes used incorrectly/misused?
3. What kind of support do you receive related to the correct use of cholera RDTs?
  - b. What do you do if you have questions about when or how to order cholera RDTs?

#### Section 5: Reporting of Cholera Results

1. How do you share information about cholera cases with the medical recorder (or other person responsible for reporting) in this facility?
  - c. What systems or tools do you use for reporting these results?
3. What challenges do you face in reporting cholera results to the medical recorder?
4. What factors helped you report results to the medical reporter?

#### Section 6: Effectiveness of RDTs in Improving Cholera Case Detection and Control

1. In your experience, how effective/useful have the RDTs been in improving cholera case detection and control?
2. Can you tell me a story about a time when RDTs made a significant difference in your experience?
  - a. Probe if appropriate: What role did cholera RDTs play in the cholera outbreak this year?
  - b. In comparison to hanging drop or cholera tests you used before, how is the RDT different?
  - c. Probes: Was there a time the RDT really helped you? Helped your patients? Helped control an outbreak?
3. In your experience, how do cholera RDTs compare to RDTs used for other diseases?

#### Conclusion

1. What would you recommend to improve the use of cholera RDTs by clinicians in Nepal?

2. Do you have any additional comments or insights regarding the use of cholera RDTs by clinicians in your facility?

Thank You. Stop recording

- Thank the interviewee for their time and valuable insights.
- Explain the next steps in the research process and how their input will be used.
- Ask for permission to reach out again for clarification or in case of additional questions.