



## 3.5

# RHD Adult Patient Interview Schedule

### INTRODUCTION

(purpose of this is to make the interviewee feel comfortable)

- Introduce yourself
- Reason for interview (explain research)
- Ethics (explain consent form and any ethical issues)
- Ask the patient if they have any questions.
- Thank the interviewee for their time and willingness to participate
- Ask the interviewee about themselves (how they are feeling etc.)

## A THEME

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### Disease History/Admission to Hospital

Probe for information about the patient's health.

There will be two possible types of patients within this group:

- Patients who present with cardiac failure at first point of care  
Probe:
  - Ask about life history and experiences of illness (we want to try understand why it is that the patient has only presented for care at this point).
- Patients who have travelled through the CoC (ARF-RHD) to get to this point  
Probe:
  - Ask them to talk about the process of going through the CoC
  - Life history and experiences of illness

In both instances we want to elicit information about their experiences and probe for information on the health seeking process/behaviour. Adapt questions appropriately for each type of patient i.e. pre/post hospitalisation/diagnosis.

So you have been diagnosed with RHD, what can you tell us about your experience of being ill?

- Can you tell us about why you have been admitted to the hospital recently?
- How were you feeling before going to the clinic/hospital?
  - What can you tell us about your health?

## B THEME

- Have you been having problems with your heart?
  - Probe: knowledge of disease and its implications; info on valve-replacement surgery; echo examination etc.)
- What made you decide to seek care at the clinic/hospital at that particular moment?
  - Have you had previous episodes of ARF, shortness of breath
  - etc. before seeking care at the clinic/hospital?
- What are your symptoms?
  - Probe: chorea, arthritis, skin conditions, malaria

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### Relationships with Health Professionals & Understanding of Disease

Understanding the patient-provider relationship aids our understanding of their decisions made in relation to health-seeking behavior as this may or may not have had an influence on their disease management/knowledge.

- When you were admitted/diagnosed, what did the doctor/nurses tell you about your disease?
  - Probe: knowledge of illness
  - Probe: ARF, Sore Throat, relation to RHD, knowledge on the progression of the disease
- Do you see the same doctor/nurse each time you go to the clinic/hospital?
- Did the doctor prescribe any medication?
  - Probe: secondary prophylaxis, penicillin allergies, knowledge of treatment/disease management

## C THEME

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### Health Seeking Behaviour

Seeks to try to identify which factors made the patient decide to seek care at this particular point in time.

- What do you do when you feel ill?
  - How have you been looking after yourself until now?
- Did you use any home remedies?
- Did you see anyone else for your symptoms?
  - Probe: traditional healers, stigma attached to disease/symptoms (e.g. fear of speaking out because of witchcraft)
- Do you visit the clinic/hospital regularly?
  - Probe: adherence to secondary prophylaxis

Sub-theme: Social Perceptions of Disease Characteristics

Here we want to know about the social structure of the community i.e. values, beliefs etc. factors that influence the way in which people think about disease(s). This can allow for the following probes as well as reveal further information that we did not know about prior to the interview.

- Probe: Chorea; Witchcraft

## D THEME

### Impact on Daily Life

Understanding the impact of illness on the patients' daily lives can aid the understanding of health-seeking behaviour and adherence (or lack thereof) to long-term treatment.

- Is it easy to get to the hospital?
- How do you get to the hospital?
  - Distance: is it far?
  - Transport: is it an issue?
  - Cost: can you afford to travel to the hospital?
- Finances:
  - How does RHD affect your work and income?
  - Can you afford treatment/medication?
  - How does the cost of treatment/medication affect the household?

## E THEME

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### Awareness

Here we want to know how much the patients know about their illness.

- Did you know that a sore throat can cause RHD?
- Had you heard of RHD before you were diagnosed?
- Do you know what you can do to prevent ARF from developing into RHD?
  - Probe: penicillin; adherence to secondary prophylaxis

## F THEME

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### Future

Here we want to know about concerns for the future.

- What is your occupation/what would you like to do one day?
- What do most of the people in your village do?
  - Probe: future expectations (are they worried they will get sicker, stigma about marriage prospects, economic opportunity)

Thank the patient for their time and participation