**Interview Guide**

**Overarching question:** **what are the factors that influence adherence to HIV Care and Antiretroviral Therapy?**

**History of HIV care**

1. When did you first receive an HIV+ diagnosis?
2. Why did you get tested at that time?
3. When you were first diagnosed, what were your main concerns about being HIV+?
4. How did you receive the diagnosis, who told you, what happened from there?
5. When did you first start receiving HIV care?
6. Please describe as best you can the chain of events from getting your HIV+ diagnosis to arriving in your HIV provider’s office to start care.
7. What motivated you to start/re-start HIV care? Start HIV medication?
8. (If there is a delay of > 3 months): What were the main factors that led to the delay of seeking HIV care immediately? (emotional, financial, social support, stigma, informational, logistics).
9. Tell me about your understanding of your HIV?
10. What was your experience (or knowledge) with HIV before your diagnosis?
11. Tell me about your HIV medication routine: how often do you take HIV meds (once a day/ twice a day)? When do you take them? How did you pick that time? How do you remember to take them then?
12. Have you had any changes in your HIV medication since you started? What and why?
13. When is the last time you forgot, skipped, or didn’t take your medication for any reason? What was going on at that time?
14. What has been the longest period of time you did not take your medication for any reason? What was going on at that time?
15. (If patient has been out of care for a period of >12 months in the last 24 months or off meds for > 1 month): What were the main factors that led to your not staying in care (emotional, financial, social support, stigma, informational, structural support, logistics: did the Rx run out? Did your insurance lapse/change? Was something going on in your life? Were you reluctant to take medication for other reasons? Were the side effects intolerable? Did you move and need to find a new doctor? Did you have a new job? Do you find coming to appointments helpful?)
    1. Why did you fall out of care?
    2. What factors contributed to your delay in re-entering care? Missing appointments?
    3. Why did you stop taking the medication?
16. What the challenges you have in continuing with HIV care and your medication?
17. What challenges have you had in living with HIV?
18. How have been your interactions with your HIV care providers?
19. What are your coping strategies for living with HIV?
20. Who do you go to for support if you are feeling down or depressed? What do they do?
21. Who do you go to for questions you have about HIV-related concerns or medications? How effective is that?
22. Who do you go to for help with things like transportation or money? How effective is that?
23. Who have you disclosed your HIV status to? Why did you choose to disclose to them? Who are the important people in your life that do not know your HIV status?
24. Have you ever been treated for depression? How recently? How has that affected your medication adherence or clinic visits?
25. Have you ever been treated for any other psychiatric illness (anxiety, schizophrenia, …)? How recently? How has that affected your medication adherence or clinic visits?

**Motivations to enter/maintain HIV care**

1. What role, if any, did/do family or friends have in helping you decide to (re)start HIV care? Please also describe your living situation.
2. What role, if any, do they play in your continuing with HIV care?
3. What role, if any, does your HIV provider or other health care providers have in helping you decide to (re)start HIV care?
4. What role does your HIV provider or other health care providers have in helping you stay in care?
5. [Role of other resources:]
   1. Are you employed? How do you find time to come to appt?
   2. Do you have children? Where are your children when you come to appt?
   3. Who do you live with, has that changed since your diagnosis or entering treatment and if so, why?
   4. How do you get to your appointments?
   5. Do you have insurance? How did that come about? how do you pay for your visits? Your medication?
6. What has been most helpful to your continued use of the medication?
7. What do you think is most helpful to get people like yourself started in HIV care?
8. What do you think is most helpful to keep people like yourself in HIV care?

**Attitudes about care providers and the health care system, and health literacy**

1. Tell me about your relationship with your current HIV provider (eg what happens in a typical visit). How does your HIV provider respond to your questions or concerns?
2. What was your perception of your health before your HIV diagnosis?
3. What was your experience with the health care system or health care providers prior to your HIV treatment?
4. When was the last time you had seen a doctor for any reason before your HIV diagnosis, and what were the circumstances?
5. Before your diagnosis, did you take any prescription medications on a regular basis? Please describe…
6. Before your diagnosis, what was your experience with filling prescriptions and taking medications?
7. What do you think about the quality of health care that you have received overall? (For patients who are not talkative, press them here: could you illustrate this with an example?)

**Questions about ART**

1. Tell me about your understanding of why you are taking HIV medication...
2. What is your understanding of the consequences if you stopped taking the HIV medication?
3. Do you have any side effects from the medication? What?
4. Did/do you have any concerns about taking (or not-taking) the medication and if so what were/are they?
5. What resources have helped you understand the reasons to take the medication, the consequences if you stop, the side effects, (and other concerns you may have had regarding the medication)?

Questions about adherence

Review chart with patient and ask about missed visits, detectable viral load?

**Questions about substance use:**

1. How often do you drink alcohol? How many drinks per week?
2. What recreational drugs (marijuana, heroin, ...) do you use ? How often?
3. For current or previous users:
4. How has your use of ... affected your HIV medication routine?
5. Do you have any concerns about your use of ... and your HIV medications or routine, and if so, what are they?
6. What do you think your HIV care provider thinks about your use of ...?
7. Have you ever been treated for drug addiction? How has your past drug use affected your medication adherence or getting to HIV appointments?

**Concluding question**

1. Is there anything else you think I should know about your motivations and challenges to maintain use of HIV medication?