

Voluntary Counseling and Testing referral during the IBBA VCTC referral Mechanism

Background

Participants will be given the opportunity to know their HIV test result if they desire. HIV test results will not be given by the NGO but the NGO will facilitate access. HIV test can be conducted again and the results will be given through existing VCT services in the district. Through the consent process, the procedure to obtain HIV test results will be explained to the participant. Participants wanting their results will come to the NGO clinic and the NGO will facilitate the participant accessing the VCT services. This access will include accompanying the participant to the VCT site and paying transport costs if necessary. The NGO outreach worker/peer educator will act as an advocate for the participant at the VCT site as well as reporting back on the quality of the service with respect to accessibility.

Guidelines/Mechanism

1. According to the pre-survey reports it can be established that accompanied referral to the VCTC with the help of identified personnel from the NGO may not be possible on the same day. Generally it is expected the survey and the interviews will be conducted in the later half of the day, which conflicts with the functional timing of the locally available VCTC. To make it logistically feasible it is advised that accompanied referral to the VCTC be done before 12:00 noon so that the HIV test result can be given on the same day.
2. Thus it is recommended that the survey team carry a list of all the VCTCs in the district as well as the contact details of the NGOs, which can be approached by the respondent. These details should be provided to the respondent invariably.
3. For accompanied referral the respondent will have to approach the NGO, they will organize and assign someone to accompany the respondent in manner that is comfortable to the respondent as well as maintains confidentiality.
4. Guidance should be provided to the respondent on the various options that are available to him/her. The respondent may or may not choose to be accompanied to a VCTC. In such a case they will not be given any travel expenses. Travel expenses will only be provided if there is a accompanied referral by the NGO.
5. The ID number provided during the interviews for syphilis test result can be recorded by the NGO staff to track the number of individuals they have organized accompanied referrals to.
6. The travel expenses will be reimbursed by the research Agency on production of the list of accompanied referrals.

Expectations from the VCTC

There is nothing that needs to be done in special preparation for the IBBA, except that fact the staff at VCTC should be made aware the IBBA activities in their area and be oriented. One cause of concern that might occur is increase in work load during the survey period, thus the staff at VCTC should be advised that this may be only temporary in nature. Some common expectations are

- Unbiased and professional delivery of services
- Maintaining confidentiality of the clients
- Respecting the client
- Follow up services if required.

The survey team should carry with them to be given to the respondent

1. Addresses and timings of all the VCTCs in the district
2. Contact details of all the NGOs oriented for VCTC referrals