



February 2012

### Guidelines/suggestions for maintaining follow-up visits

It is vital, both for data collection and the final result of the PARTNER study, that all couples are encouraged to come for their follow up visits. Each couple MAY stay in the study for 2 years. If the PARTNER study is still recruiting after these 2 years, the couple may continue to participate if they WISH to do so.

#### **Guidelines:**

1. When introducing the PARTNER study to the couple, make sure that the negative partner understands that he/she **must** come in twice in a year for an HIV test and to fill in the questionnaire
2. Explain the reasons for the 6-month HIV test
  - a. 6-month visits will make it easier for participants to fill in the questionnaires (difficult to remember what you have done in the last 12 months.)
  - b. Will help to identify the most likely source of infection (linked with partner or not linked) if an HIV infection does occur in a previously HIV-negative partner.
  - c. Very often, also partners have some additional questions regarding HIV treatment in the partner, transmission risks and other questions that can be readily addressed during the visit.
3. Schedule dates for follow-up visits at the baseline visit
4. Where possible, offer rapid testing – this can minimize the number of visits for the HIV negative partner
5. If the HIV negative partner refuses to continue to participate in the study unless they only have to come in once a year for follow-up and testing, an exception can be made. In such cases it is important to have the HIV negative partner fill in follow up questionnaires every 6 months. In this case please contact study coordinator Tina Bruun. [tbr@cphiv.dk](mailto:tbr@cphiv.dk)