

## B2. PROTECTIVE SEXUAL BEHAVIORS SCORE

### USE WHEN YOU WANT TO EVALUATE:

#### Outcomes :

- ✓ Healthy behavior: (reduced) unprotected anal intercourse
- ✓ Increased individual capacity and competency

#### Intervention types:

- ✓ Skill building sessions to increase capacity to engage in risk reduction behaviors
- ✓ Outreach to priority populations to increase their capacity to engage in risk reduction behaviors

#### Worked well with these populations:

- ✓ MSM

#### Interventions for:

- ✓ HIV
- ✓ STIs

### DESCRIPTION

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Measures of three practices that reflect participant's purposeful decision to reduce HIV transmission risks during anal intercourse with casual partners among MSM: Serosorting, strategic positioning, and withdrawal before ejaculation. Note that the recall period of 12 months is long for people to remember accurately. We recommend that it be changed to 6 or 3 months.

#### WHY THIS TOOL MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTIONS

- ✓ Some interventions and supports will have as one of their aims, increasing the capacities of MSM to protect themselves and their partners' HIV transmission risk.
- ✓ Suitable for before and after testing of a program's effects.
- ✓ Easily completed and analysed.
- ✓ Could easily be programmed to be given electronically.

#### Developed in:

- ✓ English

### ADMINISTRATION, DESIGN, SCORING and ANALYSIS CONSIDERATIONS

#### ADMINISTRATION

- These questions should take about 5 minutes to fill out each time.
- Note that the recall period of 12 months is long for people to remember accurately. We recommend that it be changed to 6 or 3 months.
- Tell participants why you are using the questionnaire, being clear that it is to evaluate the intervention to help make it better, and not them.
- Participation should be voluntary, so tell participants that it is ok if they do not complete the questionnaire, and assure participants that there are no negative consequences if they don't want to complete it. Give them a way to do something else at the same so that the confidentiality of this decision is protected. (For further information on ethical considerations in carrying out evaluations, see [Ethics Resources](#))
- If used in a group setting, ensure that people feel safe and that the space confidential; no one can see their answers (can see their screen or papers), and put completed questionnaires into a sealed envelope.

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### DESIGN OPTIONS

**Measuring before and after intervention** (this is the best option because it measures actual change)

1. **WHEN TO USE:** Have the questionnaires filled out before the intervention or at the very beginning of it, and again after, as close to the end as possible (often the very last session is not suitable because it may be a celebration, or have low attendance).
2. **LINKING RESULTS:** Include a way to match the same person's pre and post questionnaires while protecting confidentiality, for example using a [password](#) or unique identifier that respondents generate and remember.
3. **SCORING:** Add up the total "Yes" answers to get the total Protective Behavior Score
4. **ANALYSIS:** Compare the pre and post scores for each individual, noting how many people improve, how many stay the same, and how many get worse.

**Measuring change only after the end of an intervention:** (this is the second best option, because people often think the intervention has had more effect than it really did)

1. Adapt all the questions so that they ask people what their answer is now and what it was before the intervention

For example, for question 1 ask: *"Before this program, did you ever practice anal penetration without a condom, having previously asked your partner if he was of the same HIV-status as you, in order to avoid HIV infection?"* AND, *"Since you were in this program, did you ever practice anal penetration without a condom, having previously asked your partner if he was of the same HIV-status as you, in order to avoid HIV infection?"* (see an [example](#))

2. **SCORING:** Add up the total "Yes" answers to get the total Protective Behavior Score for before and after the intervention.
3. **ANALYSIS:** Compare the before and after scores for each individual, noting how many people say they improve, how many stay the same, and how many get worse.

## B2. PROTECTIVE SEXUAL BEHAVIORS SCORE

With your casual sex partners (any sexual partner that you did not consider to be your steady partner):	
In the last 12 months (6 or 3 months : <i>Note that the recall period of 12 months is long for people to remember accurately. We recommend that it be changed to 6 or 3 months</i> ), did you ever practice anal penetration without a condom, having previously asked your partner if he was of the same HIV-status as you, in order to avoid HIV infection?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Over the past 12 months (6 or 3 months : <i>see above</i> ), did you ever practice anal penetration without a condom and choose only the receptive role in order to avoid HIV infection?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Over the past 12 months (6 or 3 months : <i>see above</i> ), did you ever practice anal penetration without a condom and choose only the insertive role in order to avoid HIV infection?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Over the past 12 months (6 or 3 months : <i>see above</i> ), did you ever practice anal penetration without a condom and withdraw before ejaculation in order to avoid HIV infection?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

### Sources:

Dubois-Arber, F., Jeannin, A., Locicero, S., & Balthasar, H. (2012). **Risk reduction practices in men who have sex with men in switzerland: Serosorting, strategic positioning, and withdrawal before ejaculation.** Archives of Sexual Behavior, 41(5), 1263-1272; see also: <http://www.aidsmap.com/Changes-in-self-reported-behaviour-amongst-a-cohort-or-sample/page/1768181/>