



# Intervention Overview

AGENCY IN RELATIONSHIPS & SAFER PrEP AND MICROBICIDE ADHERENCE

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## Purpose

CHARISMA is an intervention that aims to: increase women's agency to safely and consistently use oral PrEP and vaginal microbicides; improve male partner communication and support; and reduce harmful gender norms and intimate partner violence (IPV).

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## Randomized Controlled Trial

A pilot study of CHARISMA indicated that the intervention was feasible and acceptable and may have promoted adherence and male partner clinic attendance. The intervention is now being tested in a randomized controlled trial (RCT) with 400 women aged 18-45 in Hillbrow, Johannesburg, South Africa. The RCT will measure the effectiveness of the intervention on improving oral PrEP adherence and partner communication and support; and decreasing IPV and other social harms. All participants receive oral PrEP and are randomized in a 1:1 ratio to receive the standard of care for IPV screening and referral (control arm) or the intervention, which includes assessment using the Healthy Relationship Tool, and tailored empowerment counseling by lay counselors. Participants are offered information and invitation packets for their male partners and are referred to social services, if needed. RCT results are expected in July 2020.

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## Technical Support & Scale Up

We are providing technical support to PrEP programs to address IPV and relationship dynamics in PrEP service delivery. We will work with local stakeholders to scale up the intervention to PrEP clinics in South Africa and other countries when we have evidence of the effectiveness of CHARISMA.

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## Toolkit

The CHARISMA intervention will be packaged into a user-centered toolkit for PrEP implementers. It will include background on the importance of addressing relationship dynamics and IPV in PrEP delivery; description of the intervention components; key findings and lessons learned from the pilot and RCT, and tips and considerations for intervention adaptation.

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## Further Enquiries

Contact [info@charismaproject.org](mailto:info@charismaproject.org) if you are interested in learning more about how you can address relationship dynamics and IPV in PrEP programs.





## HEART screening tool

Lay counselors administer HEART on a tablet to assess women’s relationships and tailor counselling.

## Empowerment counseling

Based on their HEART results, participants receive one of three empowerment counseling modules to help them use a vaginal ring or oral PrEP safely and effectively.

1. Responding to IPV
2. Ring disclosure and partner support
3. Partner communication

Participants are also shown videos about healthy relationships and partner communication.



## Male engagement

In the pilot study, CHARISMA staff and community volunteers conducted community workshops, dialogues, radio programs, and door-to-door outreach to increase men’s awareness and acceptance of microbicides and HIV prevention. CHARISMA RCT study participants are offered informational packets to share with their male partners and invitation letters to invite their partners to the clinic.



## Referral network

If women have additional needs, counselors refer them to partner organizations for relevant services, including legal and psychosocial support

**Community Service Providers**

<p><b>POWA</b> People opposing women abuse Berea 011 642 4345/6 Powa Soweto Room 10 Nthabiseng Centre, Chris Hani Hospital</p>	<p><b>FAMSA</b> Families South Africa Parkwood office 011 788 4784/5 Soweto Satellite Office, 3217 Zone 3, Pimville, 1809</p>	<p><b>Counseling</b> Lifeline/Victim Empowerment Booyens 011 433 538 011 728 1331, 28 Melle St, Johannesburg, 2001</p>
<p><b>Child line</b> 08000 55555 13 Joubert St, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, 2001</p>	<p><b>ikhaya Lethemba</b> Braamfontein 011 242 3000 2nd Floor, Ikhaya Lethemba Building, 176 Smit Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 2001.</p>	<p><b>Ushindio Ministries</b> Johannesburg 011 334 1143 80 Albert St, Johannesburg, 2000</p>
<p><b>Teddy Bear Clinic</b> Joubert Street &amp; Empire Road 011 484-4554/4539 083 557 3720 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Children’s Memorial Institute, 13 Joubert Street Extension, Parktown, Johannesburg, 2193</p>	<p><b>NISAA</b> Institute for Womens Development Lenasia 011 854 5804/5 19 Link Street, Extension 1, Lenasia Johannesburg, Gauteng 2000</p>	<p><b>Legal Resources Centre</b> Bram Fisher Tower, 20 Albert Street 011 836 9831 011 838 6601 M, W, Th 9H00-16H00</p>
		<p><b>Sophiatown Counseling</b> 011 614 5242 4 Lancaster St, Westdene, 2092</p>

Version 1.0 dated 07 October 2016

## Publications

Roberts ST, Nair G, Baeten JM, Palanee-Phillips T, Schwartz K, Reddy K, et al. Impact of male partner involvement on women’s adherence to the dapivirine vaginal ring during a phase III trial. *AIDS and Behavior*. 2019. Accepted.

Montgomery ET, Roberts ST, Nel A, Malherbe M, Torjesen K, Bunge K, et al. Social harms in female-initiated HIV prevention method research: state of the evidence. *AIDS*. 2019. DOI: 10.1097/QAD.0000000000002346 [Epub ahead of print].

Hartmann M, Lanham M, Palanee-Phillips T, Tolley B, Pascoe L, Hatcher A, et al. Generating CHARISMA: development of an intervention to help women build agency and safety in their relationships while using HIV prevention methods. *AIDS Educ Prev*. 2019;31(5): 433-451.

Hartmann M, Palanee-Phillips T, O’Rourke S, Adewumi K, Tenza S, Mathebula F, et al. The relationship between vaginal ring use and intimate partner violence and social harms: formative research outcomes from the CHARISMA study in Johannesburg, South Africa. *AIDS Care*. 2019;31(6): 660-666.

Palanee-Phillips T, Roberts ST, Reddy K, Govender V, Naidoo L, Siva S, et al. Impact of partner-related social harms on women’s adherence to the dapivirine vaginal ring during a phase III trial. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2018;79(5): 580-589.