**ART Readiness Assessment Tool**

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| **CRITERIA** | | **Y** | **N** |
| 1. **Psychosocial/Knowledge Criteria (applies to patients and caregivers)** | | | |
| 1. | Understands the nature of HIV infection and benefits of ART. |  |  |
| 2 | Has screened negative for alcohol or other drug use disorder, or is stable on treatment |  |  |
| 3. | Has screened negative for depression or other psychiatric illness, or is stable on treatment |  |  |
| 4. | Is willing to disclose/has disclosed HIV status, ideally to a family member or close friend? |  |  |
| 5. | Has received demonstration of how to take/administer ART and other prescribed medication? |  |  |
| 6. | Has received information on predictable side effects of ART and understands what steps to take in case of these side effects |  |  |
| 7. | For patients dependent on a caregiver: is the caregiver committed to long-term support of the patient, daily administration of ART, and meets the criteria above? |  |  |
| 8. | Other likely barriers to adherence have been identified and there is a plan in place to address them (e.g., frequent travel for work, plan to deal with unexpected travel, distance from clinic, etc.)? |  |  |
| 9 | Has the Patient/caregiver provided accurate locator information and contact details? |  |  |
| 10 | Patient/caregiver feels ready to start ART today? |  |  |
| 1. **Support Systems Criteria (applies to patients and caregivers)** | | | |
| 1. | Has identified convenient time/s of day for taking ART, and/or associated  dose/s with daily event/s? |  |  |
| 2. | Treatment supporter has been identified and engaged in HIV education, or will  attend next counselling session? |  |  |
| 3. | Is aware of support group meeting time/s? |  |  |
| 4. | If facility has SMS reminder system: Has enrolled into SMS reminder system? |  |  |
| 5. | Other support systems are in place or planned (e.g., setting phone alarm, pill box)? |  |  |
| 1. **Medical Criteria (applies to patients)** | | | |
| 1. | Newly diagnosed with TB: **defer ART until patient tolerates anti-TB medication.**  **initiate ART as soon as possible preferably within 2 weeks; for TB meningitis**  **delay ART for 4 to 8 weeks); monitor closely for IRIS** |  |  |
| 2. | Newly diagnosed cryptococcal meningitis (CM), or symptoms consistent with CM (Progressive headache, fever, malaise, neck pain, confusion): **defer ART until completed 5 weeks of CM treatment, or until ruling out CM as the cause of symptoms.**  **monitor closely for IRIS** |  |  |
| **\*If the response to any of the psychosocial criteria or support systems criteria is “No”: develop a**  **strategy to address the issue as quickly as possible and consider assigning a case manager. ART**  **may be initiated with adequate adherence support while the criteria is being addressed, on a case-by-case basis** | | | |