CRITICAL ASSESSMENT TO GUIDE DAT SELECTION

Selecting a technology and designing an intervention needs to be done in close consultation with the information gathered during the assessment, and by collaborating with the end user.

Critically assessing whether a technology fits the context, and the needs of the end user will ensure an intervention that is patient centered and contextually suitable.

We have compiled critical question examples for further guidance in ensuring the selection of a suitable technology to support the TB treatment programme.

CRITICAL ASSESSMENT EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

* **Which technology seems to match your context with the most ease?**

\* For example, if you are considering implementing the medication sleeve or label, it would be vital to assess what percentage of your target population has access to a phone. It may be that a large percentage of the population does not have access to a phone on a daily basis and therefore implementing the medication sleeve will be troublesome. It therefore may be worth considering an alternative technology such as the smart pill box which may be easier to implement as patients will receive the device from the healthcare facility.

* **Which technology seems to be the most troublesome to implement within your context?**

\* For example, it may be that very few patients in your context have access to a smart phone, and therefore implementing video observed treatment will be troublesome.

* **By looking at each technology’s implementation requirements, which requirements are unfulfilled within your context as it currently stands?**

*\* for example, it may be that a vast majority of patients do not have access to a smart phone to record videos for video observed treatment, and therefore that would be an unfulfilled implementation requirement within your context.*

* **How easy is it to meet the unfulfilled checklist items per technology?**

*\* for example, it may be that patients do not have access to a regular wi-fi connection or data, and therefore uploading videos for the video observed treatment will require the provision for data per patient to do so. It may be easier to provide a smart pill box per patient where data or a wi-fi connection is not necessary for implementation.*

* **What are areas that would require additional attention to make the most viable technology a success within your NTP?**

*\* for example, provision of a tablet or laptop to healthcare facilities to access the adherence platform before rollout can begin.*

* **What do you consider to be an acceptable percentage of the population who can access the technology within your context in tuberculosis treatment?**

*\* for example, it may be that only 40% of the population within your context has a smart phone to use for VOT. Is this an acceptable percentage of the population that can therefore access the technology as a tool in their TB treatment? Would you rather consider another technology that has a greater population reach, for example the smart pill box which could potentially be accessed by a greater percentage of the population.*

* **Each DAT has a list of considerations scored from low to high on a scale of favorability. This gives an indication about factors to consider when beginning the rollout. Which considerations will be easier to troubleshoot in your implementation journey and context?**

*\* For example, it may be easier in your context for healthcare workers to prepare the smart pill box for distribution, then to have medication sleeves printed for each new batch of drugs received from the supplier.*