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RT: Intervention on Knowledge, Attitude and Acceptance of Covid-19 Vaccine among People Living with HIV in Ogun State Nigeria

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AB: COVID-19 vaccine acceptance among People Living with HIV (PLHIV) is vital due to their immunocompromised state. COVID-19 vaccine coverage among them remains below recommended targets. Knowledge and attitude have been shown to be a predictor of vaccine acceptance. However, previous studies show no evidence regarding the knowledge and attitude of PLWHV towards COVID-19 vaccination. Various strategies have been used to improve vaccine acceptance which only yielded little effect. Evidence has shown that interventions based on theories have proven to be more effective. Therefore, the study designed and explored the effect of a theory-based intervention on knowledge, attitude, and acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination among PLHIV in Ogun State, Nigeria.

Quasi-experimental design (control and experimental), that adopted mixed-method research was used. The study population was 660 PLHIV that are registered members of support groups in Ogun State. Using a computer-generated randomization scheme, 120 participants were selected per group for the quantitative study. Criterion sampling was used to select seven key informants for the qualitative study. An adapted questionnaire was used to collect quantitative data. The Cronbach's alpha for the reliability coefficient of knowledge and attitude scales were 0.838 and 0.831. The response rate was 96.7%. An in-depth interview guide was used to collect qualitative data. The behaviour Change wheel framework guided the intervention. Results from pre-

intervention were processed and used to design an intervention. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive (frequency and percentages) and inferential (Chi-square and t-test) at a 5% level of significance. Qualitative data were analyzed using thematic Analysis.

Findings revealed that the participants in the experimental group had a mean age of 43.6 (± 18.8) while those in the control group had a mean age of 37.7 (± 15.0). Pre-intervention results revealed that 53.9% had good knowledge for the experimental group and 54.5% for the control group. Sixty per cent of the participants in the experimental group had a positive attitude towards the COVID-19 vaccine and 70.2% in the control group. Fifty-eight per cent of the participants accepted the vaccine for the experimental group and 76.0% for the control group. Interview themes indicated poor knowledge, poor attitude and low acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine. Results from post-intervention revealed that 82.1% of the participant had good knowledge for the experimental group and 41.6% for the control group. The majority (82.1%) had a positive attitude for the experimental group and 53.5% for the control group. The majority of the participants (96.2%) accepted the vaccine for the experimental group and 76.2% for the control group. Results further revealed a significant difference ($p < 0.05$) as a result of the intervention on experimental and control groups in terms of knowledge, attitude and acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine, pre- and post-intervention.

The theory-based intervention improved COVID-19 vaccination attributes among PLHIV in Ogun State. Theory-based interventions hold the potential for improving the knowledge, attitude, acceptance, and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines. Nurses, policymakers, and program managers should endeavour to ground interventions for COVID-19 vaccination in theory.

Keywords: Attitude towards COVID-19 Vaccine, COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance, Knowledge of COVID-19 vaccination, People Living with HIV and COVID-19 vaccine, Theory-based intervention

Word Count: 488

Abbreviations: *RFN: Researcher's Full Name, RD: Researcher's Department, RS: Researcher's School, RE: Researcher's Email, RAE: Researcher's Alternate Email, RP: Researcher's Phone Contact, RT: Registered Title, MS: Main Supervisor, ME: Main Supervisor's E-mail Address, SP: Main Supervisor's Phone Contact, CS: Co-Supervisor, CE: Co-Supervisor's E-mail Address, CP: Co-Supervisor's Phone Contact, AB: Abstract*

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