Supplementary material

To the manuscript "Text Messaging to Decrease Tuberculosis Treatment Attrition in TB-HIV Co-Infection in Uganda."

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1. Examples of reminder messages.

A. Adherence reminders

Please do not forget to take your TB medicine to reduce the risk for further spread of TB. Please beep 0800200055 if you have any problems.

Please do not forget to take your TB medicine to prevent infecting your family and friends. Please beep 0800200055 if you have any problems.

B. Reminders of upcoming clinic appointment

Do not forget to come back to the clinic tomorrow. Come with your remaining TB medicine and TB card. Beep 0800200055 if you have any problems.

C. Educational quiz messages
The correct answers are marked in bold.

Message 1:
How do you prevent others in your home from getting infected with TB?
1. Using your own cup and plate
2. Covering mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing
3. Keeping the windows open
To reply type: 1<space><Answer Nr>
All replies:
All answers are correct. Keep taking your TB medicine to get healthy and reduce the risk of spreading it to your family members.

Message 2:
Can TB be cured?
1. Yes
2. No
To reply type: 2<space><Answer Nr>
If correct:
Yes, TB can be cured if you take your medicine every day for 8 months.
If incorrect:
This is incorrect. TB can be cured if you take your medicine every day for 8 months.

Message 3:
Is it safe to be on ARVs and TB drugs at the same time?
1. Yes
2. No
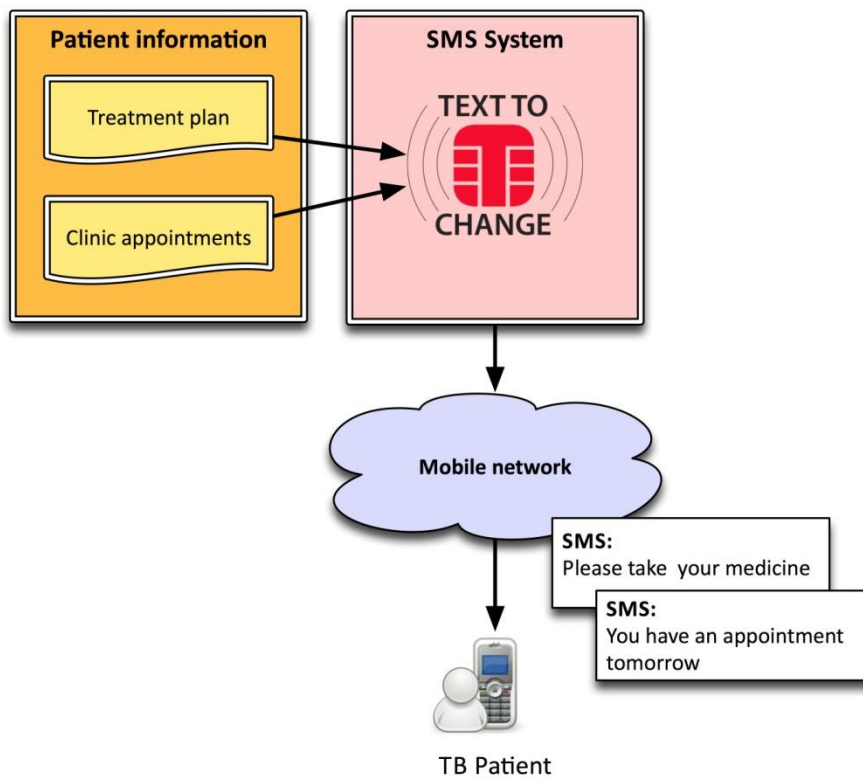To reply type: 3<space><Answer Nr>
If correct:
This is correct. The doctor will make sure you are taking ARVs which go well with TB drugs. If you have any problems, beep the clinic at 0800200055.
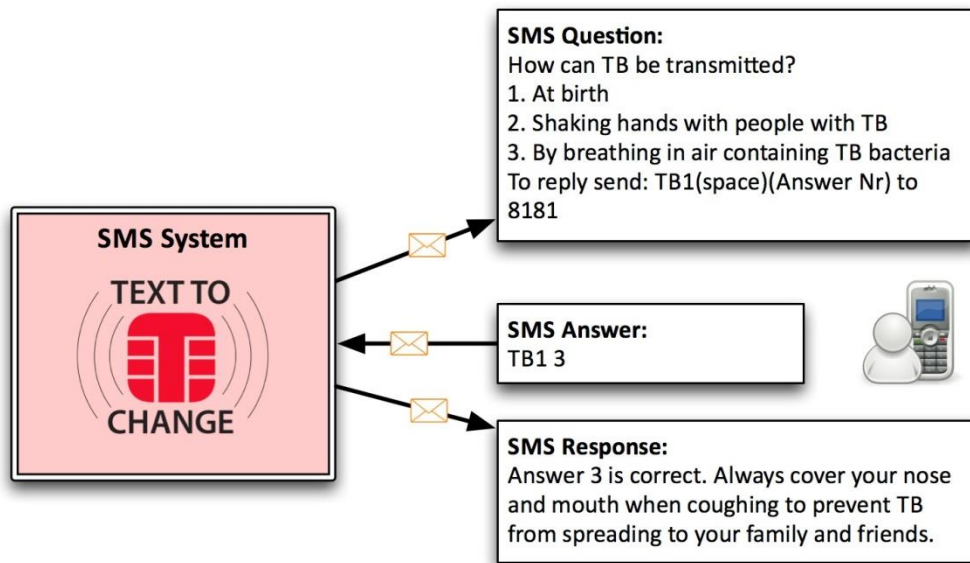*If incorrect:*
Answer 1 is correct. The doctor will make sure you are taking ARVs which go well with TB drugs. If you have any problems, beep the clinic at 0800200055.

2. Graphic overview and example of SMS appointment reminder.

3. Graphic overview and example of SMS questionnaire.

SMS System
TEXT TO CHANGE

SMS Question:
How can TB be transmitted?
1. At birth
2. Shaking hands with people with TB
3. By breathing in air containing TB bacteria
To reply send: TB1(space)(Answer Nr) to 8181

SMS Answer:
TB1 3

SMS Response:
Answer 3 is correct. Always cover your nose and mouth when coughing to prevent TB from spreading to your family and friends.

4. Description of interim analysis and early termination of enrolment.

An unplanned interim analysis was performed in September 2011 due to funding restrictions and lagging patient enrolment. Data on the primary treatment outcome of all participants who had completed the study at that time and of the entire pre-intervention control group were analysed and RRs of treatment LFU were calculated for two extreme scenarios (all remaining participants in the intervention group would either complete or become LFU). Of the 114 participants who had completed enrolment and follow-up by September 2011, none had become LFU. In the pre-intervention control group of 302 participants, 6 patients were recorded as LFU. This was much lower than anticipated (2% instead of 17%). Even if all remaining 177 study participants completed treatment, the study would not be powered to show a lower risk of LFU in those using the SMS reminder service compared to the control group (RR 0.15 [95% confidence interval (CI), 0.19-1.21]). Therefore, it was deemed

futile to complete enrolment. Enrolment was stopped at the end of the intended

period (1 year).

5. Table of baseline characteristics of not enrolled versus intervention participants.

Category	Subcategory	Intervention N=183	Not enrolled N=171	*P*-value
Sex (female, n [%])		98 (54)	79 (46)	0.17
Age (years, mean [SD])		35 (9.4)	36 (9.4)	0.29
Type of TB (n, [%])[1]	Smear positive	61 (33)	40 (23)	0.07
	Smear negative	45 (25)	44 (26)	
	Extrapulmonary	68 (37)	69 (40)	
Treatment categories (n, [%])	New	155 (84)	132 (77)	0.20
	Retreatment	14 (8)	15 (9)	
	Other	0 (0)	1 (1)	
	Missing	14 (8)	23 (13)	
On ART at TB diagnosis (n, [%])[2]		61 (33)	66 (39)	0.07
Baseline CD4 count (cells/mm^3, median [IQR])		145 (37, 293)	90 (28,212)	0.05
Marital status (n, [%])	Single	19 (11)	NA	
	Married/cohabiting	77 (42)	NA	
	Divorced/separated	56 (31)	NA	
	Widowed	31 (17)	NA	
Own a phone (n, [%])		143 (78)	NA	
Share your phone with others		6 (out of 143)	NA	
Share a phone (daily access)		40 (out of 40)	NA	
If sharing a phone: disclosed?		46 (out of 46)	NA	
Literacy (n, [%])		174 (95)	NA	
Distance to clinic (n, [%])[3]	<10km	141 (77)	NA	
	>10km	42 (23)	NA	

Note: C, controls; I, intervention; NA, not available; NE, not enrolled; SD, standard deviation.

[1]In 9/183 (intervention group) and 18/171 (not enrolled group) no type of TB was recorded in routine database
[2]In 18/171 (11%, not enrolled group) no date of TB diagnosis was recorded
[3]This information was not abstracted for the not enrolled group.