AETC-NMC
AIDS Education and Training Center
National Multicultural Center
HOWARD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Case Study Adapted from Addressing HIV Care and Latino Model

Sofia is a twenty one year old migrant farm worker who has come into the clinic to receive an HIV test. Sofia is worried that Pedro has been unfaithful to her during his time working in North Carolina. She has heard her friends talk about how the "men are" when they travel without their families. It's not uncommon for men to feel lonely while traveling and their separation from loved ones for long periods of time may lead them to be intimate with someone else. Also concerning to Sofia is the fact that Pedro does not like to wear condoms. She questions his use of a condom during a possible indiscretion.

Sofia recently received information from a lay health educator where she learned about her potential risks relative to her relationship with Pedro. The lay health educator strongly urged her to consider being tested for HIV and other STI's. Sofia has never been tested and she is embarrassed and fearful of what people might think. She wonders if people will question her own fidelity and reasons for requesting information and testing. In addition, Sofia thinks it's important that Pedro also get tested, but doesn't know how to broach the subject with him. She is frightened about initiating a general conversation about such a topic, specifically how they can each protect themselves against HIV and other STI's.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some cultural concerns that you should consider when handling Sofia's discomfort with testing?

2. How can you make Sofia feel comfortable about the testing process?

3. What are some ways that you can help Sofia speak to Pedro about getting tested and about negotiating condom use?

4. Discuss other Cultural Competence issues that may impact retention into care and treatment.