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

Gloria, a 39 year old monolingual Spanish speaking Latina woman was referred for HIV testing at your health center after she had contracted Chlamydia. Gloria previously explained to her health care provider that her only partner was her husband to whom she has been married to for the past 19 years. Hearing this, the provider referred her for an HIV test. When Gloria came to your clinic, the HIV counselor who offered her the test spoke fluent Spanish so she was able to communicate well with Gloria.

That was well over two months ago. You want her to come back to get her test results although the Spanish speaking HIV counselor is no longer at the clinic. You are naturally concerned that it has taken her so long to come back into the health center and you want to be aggressive in keeping Gloria in care. You speak a little Spanish and can communicate some basic information, but you struggle to be clear.

Ultimately, you make the decision to give her the result anyway. In addition, her 9 year old daughter speaks English so she can probably assist you in explaining the test results to Gloria. Since the test result is negative, you are happy to share the information with Gloria. You will ask her daughter to relay the information.

Discussion Questions

1. Is this strategy the most effective way to communicate Gloria's status to her? Yes; no; Why?

2. What are some of the reasons that Gloria may not have been able to return to clinic sooner that 2 months to receive her result? Is this a consideration when scheduling return appointments?

3. Is it appropriate to have Maria's 9 year old daughter explain the results to her mother? What are some concerns that this raises?

4. May the health provider discuss Gloria's health information with her daughter or any other member of her family?

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