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

Case Study Adapted from Addressing HIV Care and Substance Abuse

Eddie is a 28 year-old African American male, who was a former businessman and college graduate who fell on hard times. He was diagnosed with HIV five years ago at a mobile van. Due to denial, Eddie did not seek treatment at that time. After careful urging from his family, Eddie finally seeks treatment at a clinic. Eddie states that he has had unprotected sex with women on a regular basis. He has no history of opportunistic infections and no history of antiretroviral therapy. Eddie has missed his last 2 appointments. He is a heavy alcohol user mostly on weekends and is an occasional user of the drug Ecstasy.

His latest labs are as follows:
CD4+ T cell count: 145 cells/mm^3
HIV RNA: 288,000 copies/mL

Discussion Questions

1. How do you proceed?

2. Are ethical issues present in this case?

3. Does the provider have a responsibility to Eddie's partners to alert them of his HIV status?

4. What barriers to care are present in this case?

5. If Eddie's provider did not know he was a college graduate, do you think Eddie's provider would have any biases and prejudices toward him that might hinder the way he was treated?

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