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

Maria is a 26 year old Latina male to female transgender who was diagnosed with HIV one month ago. She has been working at a restaurant for the past 6 months and lives with her parents. Maria seeks treatment at a community clinic that serves Latino patients. She has been faithful in keeping appointments.

Maria trusts her provider, and she admits to having multiple sex partners in the past but is now in a monogamous relationship with Jessie, a 42 year old attorney. She also admits to alcohol and crystal meth use and attends drug/sex parties. She has no history of mental illness.

During her most recent visit to the clinic, her latest labs are as follows:

CD4+ T cell count: 410 cells/mm^3
HIV RNA: 79,000 copies/mL
Hepatitis C Antibody: Positive

Discussion Questions

1. How do you proceed?

2. Are there any behavioral factors that need to be addressed before Mario is started on an antiviral regimen?

3. What approach should be taken to assess Maria's ongoing drug use?

4. Are there any ethical concerns that need to be addressed during this encounter?

5. What is Maria's current support mechanism?

6. What ethical responsibilities, if any, does the clinic have to Maria?

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