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

Peter is a 48 year-old African American male diagnosed with HIV 17 years ago. He has a history of intravenous drug abuse and consistently adhered to antiretroviral therapy (ARTs) while incarcerated for vehicular manslaughter due to a drunk driving accident. He presents with a history of obesity, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and degenerative joint disease. He wants to restart ARVs.

He was incarcerated for 16 years until 9 months ago. He returned to active alcohol/drug use after his release. He has a MBA and is currently unemployed. He has a past history of treatment for depression.

His latest labs are as follows:
CD4+ T cell count: 550 cells/mm^3
HIV RNA: 29,000 copies/mL

Discussion Questions

1. How do you proceed?
2. What factors should be considered when deciding whether to restart Peter on ART?
3. Are there any genetic factors that could impact Peter's response to therapy?
4. What approach would be useful in getting an assessment of Peter's current condition and his willingness to comply with provider's recommendations?
5. How could the provider identify any barriers to care during this encounter with Peter?
6. How do you identify Peter's support mechanism?
7. Discuss other Cultural Competence issues that may impact retention into care and treatment.