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

Joseph is a 58 year old African American man diagnosed with HIV five years ago and was newer prescribed antiretroviral medication (ARVs). He has no history of opportunistic infections but is diagnosed with hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and obesity. He presents with a 20 year history of crack cocaine addiction for which he received in patient treatment six times. His last drug use was 5 years ago at the time of his HIV diagnosis. He comes with his fiancé, Tasha, who is HIV negative.

He is currently taking herbals. He is unsure about taking ARVs.

His latest lab are as follow:
CD4+ T cell count: 490 cells/mm^3
HIV RNA: 56,000 copies/mL

Discussion Questions

1. How do you proceed?
2. Does the provider have an ethical responsibility to Joseph's fiancé to reveal his diagnosis of HIV?
3. Could you identify any barriers to care in this encounter?
4. What could the provider do to build trust and establish a rapport with the patient?
5. What ethical responsibilities, if any, does the clinic have to Joseph?
6. Should the provider encourage Tasha to take an HIIV test?
7. If Tasha is not infected, what precautions will be most important to be discussed?
8. How do you find what herbals are Joseph taking?
9. Discuss other Cultural Competence issues that may impact retention into care and treatment