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

Case Study Adapted from Addressing HIV Care and Transgender Communities

Jenny, a 25 year old Native American male to female transgender person, wants to look into services that you provide. She has not legally changed her name so her documents display her given male name James. She is new in transition, dresses in t-shirts and jeans and still produces facial hair (which is exposed). She appears to be shy, jittery and very nervous, does not look anyone in the eyes. Jenny had unprotected sex one week prior and is concerned about her HIV status.

Discussion Questions

1. What would be the most appropriate way to start the encounter with Jenny?
2. How could the biases and prejudices of the provider influence the interaction with the patient?
3. How can barriers to care be identified and overcome with Jenny?
4. Is it appropriate to administer an HIV test during this visit? If so, how would you go about getting informed consent from the patient?
5. How can the provider find out more information about day-to-day hardships and challenges that Jenny may be experiencing?
6. What can the provider do to provide culturally sensitive care to Jenny?
7. Discuss other Cultural Competence issues that may impact retention into care and treatment