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

Case Study Adapted from Addressing HIV Care and Adolescent Communities

The Infectious Disease (ID) team is called to do a consult on the Pediatric floor for an 18 year old Latino male, Juan, who tested positive for HIV, 2 days after his 18th birthday. Juan was admitted to the hospital 3 days prior for a heroin overdose. Several family members are present in his room upon the ID team's arrival. Juan asks his family to leave the room and proceeds to explain to the team his admission and how he thinks he contracted HIV. Juan came to the U.S. 3 years ago from the Dominican Republic. He attends high school in US and does not think he needs an interpreter. However, he has had some difficulty communicating with the nurses. He says they do not understand his accent.

Juan admits to using heroin for 1 year, but says he has not used for the last 3 months. He says that he is homosexual. He admits to 2 lifetime male partners, who he inconsistently used condoms with. He says his boyfriend has recently tested HIV negative. His boyfriend is several years older than him. When asked how he thinks he contracted HIV, Juan gives a strange story about the day of his admission, where he was injected with heroin against his will. Juan says that his family is very supportive and accepting of his homosexuality, however he does not want to disclose his HIV diagnosis to them.

Discussion Questions

1. How should the ID team proceed from here in order to ensure Juan fully understands his diagnosis, gets adequate support, and receives the best HIV treatment possible?

2. What are some Latino cultural values that the provider could address in order to persuade Juan to share his HIV diagnosis with his family?

3. What things should be considered when an adolescent moves from pediatric to adult care?

4. What other issues should be considered based on the age of the client, access to services, support systems, relationship with a older person?

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