



# The Cluster Interview Format

## I. Introduction

- A. Introduce yourself and anyone else present and your role.
- B. Define the purpose of the session:
  1. Provide information about the disease exposed to and the reason for treatment.
  2. Provide information to help prevent future exposures.
  3. Help the patient know what to do if re-exposed.
  4. Take care of others who may need testing and treatment.
- C. Explain confidentiality

## II. Patient Assessment

- A. Patient Concerns
  - Identify and resolve any patient concerns (why given treatment with a negative test, why talk if test is negative, confidentiality, time, clinic experience, etc.)
- B. Social History
  - Pursue accurate locating information (address and telephone number) for the patient.
  - Collect additional social history as it pertains to the original patient and to the original patient's social groups network: lifestyle, travel, school, work, social groups, and recreation.
- C. Medical History
  - Collect the following medical information for the patient: STD history, serologic testing for syphilis (STS), incidental treatment, drug use, and pregnancy, Cluster Interview for other infections (super gonorrhea, HIV) as prioritized by local protocol.
- D. Disease Comprehension
  - Determine and reinforce what the patient knows about the disease.
  - Present an individualized discussion, not a medical lecture. Discuss the following points: complications, HIV connection, asymptomatic nature, re-infection risk and transmission. (CHART)

## III. Disease Intervention

- A. Partner Elicitation
  1. Define the significance of immediate sex partner referral, emphasizing that one or more may have an STD/HIV which would re-expose the patient:  
"We found you before you could develop the disease, but we know you are here because someone you are associated with was infected. To prevent you from coming in contact with the disease again we need to talk about your partners."
  2. Evaluate problems and select appropriate solutions.
  3. Gather the following information about each sex partner:



# The Cluster Interview Format

- Foundation—Number, Behaviors, Settings
- Name
- Exposure—first, last, frequency, type, use of condoms
- Locating
- Clustering (Pursue Social Contacts)\*
- Description

(\* Pursue Social Contacts: inquire about partners of partners, people with symptoms, those who can benefit from a free exam, those having sex with the same people. This will be the focus of a Cluster Interview.)

The goal is to get information about the original patient and the partners. Pursue information about all partners equally, so as to protect confidentiality.

## B. Risk Reduction

This section shifts attention from the patient's current disease to the behaviors that put him or her at risk to all sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. This section should be individualized, patient centered and:

1. Help patient identify risks;
2. Identify and support past successes/behaviors that work;
3. Identify one or two steps to reducing risk;
4. Problem solve for potential barriers to implementing steps

## IV. Conclusion

- Address any remaining patient needs, questions, or concerns of potential compliance problems, summarize, set up Re-Interview, give business card, thank the patient.
- Reinforce any commitments made by the patient.
- Provide handouts and information as necessary.