



PEER DISCLOSURE*

▶ ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

 **Time:** 45 minutes

 **Objectives:** By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the best time for disclosing to a client;
- Identify the benefits of, and barriers to, disclosure.

 **Training Methods:** Small Group Discussion, Report Back

 **In This Activity You Will...**

- Divide the room into 4 groups and distribute newsprint (5 minutes)
- Ask groups disclosure at the time listed on their newsprint and to discuss the impact of disclosure upon the peer/client relationship at that point (25 minutes)
- Ask groups to report back to the room. (15 minutes)

 **Materials:**

- 4 newsprints with the following titles:
- Newsprint - Before Meeting the Client
- Newsprint - During First Meeting with the Client
- Newsprint - After Building a Level of Trust/Rapport with the Client
- Newsprint - When a Critical Incident Occurs

 **Preparation:**

- Prepare newsprints

Instructions

1. Introduce session by asking participants what they see as the purpose(s) of peer disclosing their HIV status to clients. Acknowledge that organizations may have their own protocols for when and perhaps how peers are to disclose to clients.

In addition, individual peers have developed a sense of the most appropriate and fruitful times to disclose to a client. Explain that you will be giving participants a chance to discuss what they feel are the best times to disclose their status to clients and what the benefits and drawbacks may be to disclosing at various points in their relationship with the client.

2. Break participants into four groups. Assign each group one of the 4 newsprint “topics” and ask them to appoint a recorder. Have groups divide newsprints into 2 categories: benefits and drawbacks. Instruct groups to list both the benefits, as well as the drawbacks, of disclosing to clients at that particular time. Give participants 15 minutes to develop their lists.
3. Ask each group to present their lists and discuss the benefits and drawbacks listed – do this in order of the topic. Elicit feedback from other groups regarding their thoughts on disclosing at the various times; something seen as a benefit by one group may be viewed as a drawback by another.

Explore these differences in experience and opinion. Ask participants if there may be instances in which they never would disclose their status to a client.

* This module comes from the Comprehensive Peer Worker Training, Peer Advanced Competency Training (PACT) Project Harlem Hospital Center, Division of Infectious Diseases, 2008.

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▶ TRAINING TIP

- Disclosure should be done when the client needs it, not for the peer.
- There is no best time for disclosure, it depends on agency policy or if you have a choice then you should assess the relationship and the client's needs

Summary

When all groups have shared their lists, wrap up the session by reinforcing the idea that there is no “right” time to disclose to clients and that, except in cases in which their organization dictates disclosure, each peer must decide on when he or she feels disclosure is most appropriate and most beneficial for the client.

* This module is part of the online toolkit *Building Blocks to Peer Success*. For more information, visit http://www.hdwg.org/peer_center/training_toolkit. This module comes from the Comprehensive Peer Worker Training, Peer Advanced Competency Training (PACT) Project Harlem Hospital Center, Division of Infectious Diseases, 2008.

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SESSION NEWSPRINT

Disclosure before meeting the client

Benefits

Drawbacks

Disclosure during first meeting

Benefits

Drawbacks

Disclosure after building trust/rapport with client

Benefits

Drawbacks

Disclosure when a critical incident occurs

Benefits

Drawbacks