

PEER EDUCATOR TO CLIENT ROLE PLAY*

▶ ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

- 🕒 **Time:** 20 minutes
- ➔ **Objectives:** By the end of this session, participants will be able to:
 - Describe what they observe happen between a Peer Educator and newly diagnosed HIV+ individual.
- ★ **Training Methods:** Role Play, Large Group Discussion
- ✓ **In This Activity You Will...**
 - Role play with co-facilitator client/peer educator session (10 minutes).
 - Lead group discussion asking participants to identify strengths, qualities, knowledge and skills observed in the role play (10 minutes).
- ✂ **Materials:**
 - Script – Role Play
- 🔪 **Preparation:**
 - Print script

Instructions

1. Have two facilitators or volunteers go through the Role Play script.
2. Ask participants the following questions and facilitate discussion.
 - What were your feelings about the interaction between the Peer Educator and Client?
 - What do you think about the services the Peer Educator is able to provide to the Client?
 - What did you like about the Peer Educator's interaction with the client? What could have been done better?
 - What do you think encouraged the client to share with the Peer Educator?

Summary

As you were able to observe the interaction between the Peer Educator and Client you see how important it is to have the knowledge and skill set we discussed earlier. Being a Peer Educator can be challenging, however the scenario shows us that the support a Peer Educator can provide to a Client is invaluable because of the shared experiences. This scenario is just one of the many interactions between a Peer Educator and a 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 Missouri People to People Training Manual, 2008.

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SESSION HANDOUT

ROLE PLAY

A newly diagnosed HIV+ client comes in for their second office visit with the doctor to discuss laboratory test results. The client was diagnosed with HIV 2 weeks ago, at which time they met with the HIV Primary Care Team and completed a battery of laboratory tests. The client understandably is still distraught, scared, and ashamed and is trying to make sense of the diagnosis. The doctor discusses with the client the many options for HIV care and treatment but the client is not ready to discuss them and does not know what to do. The doctor then refers the client to the Peer Education Program, explains that a Peer Educator is available to provide support to people who are newly diagnosed.

This is an example of an interaction between Client and Peer Educator.

Script

Peer Educator

Hi, I'm Anne, how are you?

Client

Well, now I don't really know how I am.

Peer Educator

I understand....you were recently diagnosed HIV+ a couple of weeks ago.

Client

Yes, I just don't know what I'm going to do. I have small children. How am I going to tell them that I'm going to die?

Peer Educator

You know there is no cure for HIV yet but researchers are working hard every day to find a cure, and develop more medications to help those living with HIV. HIV is life changing, it's a chronic disease but it is manageable. Don't get comfortable and focused on dying, because you have a lot of living to do. You found out two weeks ago, do you have any support, like friends or family?

Client

No, I'm not telling anyone that I have this.

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SESSION HANDOUT (cont.)

ROLE PLAY (CONT.)

Peer Educator

Family and friends can sometimes provide a lot of support, but if you have any reservations at all about disclosure or telling them about your HIV status, then follow your gut feelings. If you are open to the Peer Counseling Program we have at the clinic we would be glad to be that support for you until you feel ready to disclose; and if you'd like we can arrange to be there with you.

Client

That sounds good. I'm just not ready to tell anyone now.

Peer Educator

I can understand you are still trying to process this yourself.

Client

Yeah.

Peer Educator

What have you heard about HIV?

Client

Just what I've seen on TV, always wear a condom to prevent HIV and I knew that. That's why I feel so stupid.

Peer Educator

Don't beat yourself up, of course we should take precautions but nobody deserves to be infected. Not you, not the person that infected you. Have you talked to them yet?

Client

Yes. He apologized but that doesn't change anything.

Peer Educator

No it doesn't, but we can start where you are and that is from this point on you can learn how to live a healthy life living HIV+. I did.

Client

What? You are HIV positive, but you don't look like it.

Peer Educator

Yes, I am positive, but the look is a myth. It's not how you look. (Peer Educator shares their story)

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SESSION HANDOUT (cont.)

ROLE PLAY (CONT.)

Client

You got that right!

Peer Educator

The Peer Program helped me and it can help you to by providing you with more education about HIV disease, how it is transmitted, and how to understand your labs. As your advocate we can breakdown those lab values to make some sense of all those numbers your doctor is giving you, we can also talk a little about medications that are currently approved, and how nutrition and exercise can help your immune system now more than ever.

Client

What do I need to do to be a part of the program?

Peer Educator

I'll be glad to explain it to you.

END