



Partner Communication (Status Disclosure)



Benefits of HIV Status Disclosure



- Increased opportunities for instrumental and expressive social support
- Improved access to necessary medication treatment and care
- Increased opportunities to plan for the future carefully and thoughtfully



Risks of HIV Status Disclosure to Sexual Partners



- Loss of Economic Support
- Blame
- Abandonment
- Physical and Emotional Abuse
- Discrimination
- Disruption of Family Relationships



The Process of HIV Status Disclosure



- Step 1: Adjustment to the diagnosis
- Step 2: Evaluation of personal disclosure skills
- Step 3: Evaluating the appropriateness of disclosing to a potential recipient



The Process of HIV Status Disclosure



- Step 4: Evaluating the circumstances for disclosure
- Step 5: Anticipating the reactions of the recipient
- Step 6: Identify motivation for disclosure to each recipient



Factors that Influence the Decision for Disclosure



- Trust in confidentiality of counselor
- Individual psychological state
- Personal communication skills and communicating partner
- Anticipated Reactions
- Individual motivations for disclosure
- Previous history of violence in partner



CASE STUDIES

FOR

DISCLOSURE



CASE STUDY #1



Audu, 45 years old, was diagnosed HIV+ 2 years back. He is currently on ARVs. He has never disclosed his status to his wife for the fear that she may desert him soon as she knows. He has sex with her once a month without condoms. He believes that since he has reduced sexual intercourse with her to once a month and that he is taking his ARVs regularly, his wife will not be infected.

How would you deal with this issue considering the importance of status disclosure?



CASE STUDY #2



Joy, 30 years old, is scheduled to be wedded in 3 weeks time. She took an HIV antibody test and the result is positive. She says she has had sex with some men but never with her fiancé. She thinks once she discloses her status to the fiancé, it will be the end of the relationship.

- Would you encourage her to disclose to the fiancé?
- Do you think she should disclose to the other men?



CASE STUDY #3



Mzungu, a 50 year old, has three wives. He tested HIV antibody positive late last year. He took his first two wives for testing, and they both tested positive. Mzungu and the first two wives are currently on ARVs. He has instructed the positive ones not to disclose to the new wife he recently married because he loves her and would not want to spoil his relationship with her.

The third wife has been ill and had cause to take an HIV antibody test. The result was negative, and she was asked to come back for a repeat test after 3 months.

- Should Mzungu and his positive wives disclose their statuses?
- How would you help Mzungu and the other wives to communicate their statuses?