**Latinx Population and HIV Risk**
- Latinx persons account for 27% of new HIV diagnoses
- Men who have sex with men comprise the majority of new infections in the Latinx community
- 1 in 6 people who are HIV-positive are unaware of their status
- Foreign-born persons are more likely to receive a late HIV diagnosis

**HIV Testing**
- HIV testing with linkages to prevention and treatment is key
- Reassure that HIV testing is voluntary and confidential
- Offer testing in a safe, private setting
- Offer professional translators as needed. Avoid using family members
- If a patient declines testing, testing should be offered at next encounter, visit, or session
- Patients currently engaging in risky behavior, actively using substances or identify as LGBTQ should be offered repeat testing
- Latinx heterosexual women may also be at risk and should be offered HIV testing
- Provide risk reduction, preferably in patient’s native language
- Offer screening for STIs, Hepatitis B and C
- Screen for substance use/misuse, and psychiatric symptoms
- If the patient is HIV negative, offer pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Offer linkages to support services for patient and their family

**Barriers/Issues Impacting Engagement**
- Language barriers and education levels may limit uptake of information about HIV prevention and treatment
- Consider that a generational gap in HIV knowledge may exist between foreign-born and native-born to the US

**Interventions to Decrease Barriers Impacting Engagement**
- Messaging that HIV:
  - Is preventable with behavior change and PrEP
  - Is treatable with the use of antiretroviral therapy
  - Can reduce transmission to others
  - Can the community spread
  - Untreated HIV can lead to cardiovascular and metabolic disorders (diabetes)

**Interactions with Patients:**
- Use interpreters to assure comprehension of information
- Use patient navigators familiar with Latinx health beliefs, practices, and services available in the community
- If available, engage Spanish speaking providers
- Be sensitive to cultural beliefs regarding health/illness, medications, pain, consent, privacy, self-care, food, etc.
- Address subjects in a nonjudgmental, caring manner
- Meet the patient where they are and when ready to discuss
- Establish rapport to ensure comfort and ease
MODELO DE TEXTO PARA TOMAR UNA HISTORIA DE SALUD SEXUAL

• Buenos días. Mi nombre es ________ y soy (profesión/función). Puede llamarme ________.
• ¿Cómo prefiere usted que le llame?
• Antes de empezar, ¿hay algo que le preocupe en relación a su salud? Quiero asegurarme de que podamos hablar de esto hoy.
• Las siguientes preguntas son para evaluar los riesgos para su salud sexual. Les hago estas mismas preguntas a todos mis pacientes. ¿Le parece bien que le haga estas preguntas?
  • Cuando fue la última vez que tuvo relaciones sexuales?
  • ¿Tiene más de una pareja sexual? ¿Cuántas parejas tuvo en la última semana? ¿Y en el último mes?
  • ¿Me podría decir el género de las personas con las que tiene relaciones sexuales?
  • ¿Qué tipos de contacto sexual tiene? (genital, anal, oral, o todos)
  • ¿Toma drogas o alcohol antes o durante las relaciones sexuales?
  • ¿Con qué frecuencia usa condones?
  • ¿Se ha hecho alguna prueba para detectar infecciones de transmisión sexual?
  • ¿Tuvó alguna enfermedad de transmisión sexual en el pasado?
  • ¿Alguna vez tuvo relaciones sexuales a cambio de dinero, alojamiento, comida, ropa, drogas o algún otro regalo?
• ¿Le puedo ayudar referiéndole a otros servicios médicos que necesite?
• ¿Qué tipo de recursos de apoyo le puedo ayudar a conseguir?

(Translation courtesy of Prof. Mari Felix Cubas Mora)

SAMPLE SEXUAL HEALTH HISTORY TAKING SCRIPT

• Good morning, my name is ________ and I am a (discipline). You can call me ________.
• How would you like to be addressed?
• Before we begin, are there any issues that are of concern for your health, so I make sure we talk about them?
• The following are questions to assess your sexual health risks, I ask these questions to all my patients. Is it okay to go ahead and ask you these questions?
  • When was the last time you had sex?
  • Do you have more than one sex partner? How many in the past week? Past month?
  • Can you share the gender of the people with whom you are having sex?
  • What kind of sex are you having? (genital, anal, oral, or all)
  • Do you use drugs or alcohol before or during sex?
  • How often do you use condoms?
  • Have you been tested for STIs?
  • Have you had an STI in the past?
  • Have you ever had sex in exchange for money, housing, food, clothing, drugs or other gifts?
• Can I assist in making referrals for other clinical services?
• What kind of support resources can I help you obtain?

Translation Services

• Medical Translation and Interpreting Service: 1-800-695-8772
• Pittsburgh Translation Services for documents: (240)-523-3595

References


