

## Case Study 3: Smith Family

In a large city a middle-aged man, Mr. Smith, who speaks limited English, was seen in the health clinic with complaints of flu-like symptoms including: fever, chills, rash, night sweats, muscle aches, sore throat, fatigue, and swollen lymph nodes. Several vials of blood were drawn and he was sent home with instructions to rest. Mr. and Mrs. Smith returned to the clinic one week later for a follow-up visit. At the time of this visit Mr. Smith continued to experience the same complaints. He was very concerned that he may require hospitalization and he wanted to attend his daughter's school performance that afternoon. Mr. Smith received the results of his test. The patient had a positive HIV diagnosis. The patient's wife does not speak English at all and did not understand the diagnosis Dr. White gave her husband. Mr. Smith did not want to share his diagnosis with his wife. Mr. Smith felt that he would have a limited life expectancy and did not want to upset his wife, who would eventually learn of his extra-marital activities. Mr. Smith also knew he would be stigmatized with such a diagnosis. And after all he would certainly be forbidden to enter the school building for his daughter, Linda's, performance today and any other performances in the future. Following a lot of conversation and education from the nurse, Mr. Smith realized that he was required to notify his wife and all partners of his diagnosis.

Mr. Smith was prescribed antiretroviral medications. The patient does not have insurance and the cost is more than the Smiths can afford. Mr. Smith is referred to Job and Family Services where he can apply for medical assistance. To receive the medical assistance, Mr. Smith learns that he must have the proper paperwork from his employer. Mr. Smith also needs to have the paperwork completed for the impending FMLA he will need as he works through his medical issue. Mr. Smith does not want his employer to know anything about his illness, but his boss is very "pushy" and continually asks Mr. Smith about his medical needs.

8:00-10:00 am

- Linda is at school.
- Mr. and Mrs. Smith are at the clinic.
- Mr. Smith meets with the HIV educator, completes forms for contact notification, and shares his diagnosis with his wife.

10:00 am-12:00 pm

- Mrs. Smith is tested for HIV.
- Mr. Smith goes to the pharmacy for prescriptions.
- Mr. Smith needs to go to JFS to complete a Medicaid application.

12:00-2:00 pm

- Mr. Smith needs to go back to work to complete FMLA form for leave (boss is pushy).

2:00-4:00 pm

- Linda needs to be picked-up at school. Mr. Smith is *LATE and* school administration is concerned that Linda is often picked-up late.
- Mr. Smith returns to the pharmacy for Rx. He has the wrong form due to language barrier.

4:00-6:00 pm

- Linda goes to gymnastics.
- Mr. Smith returns to JFS for the correct forms and then goes back to the pharmacy.

6:00-8:00 pm

- Linda breaks her arm at gymnastics.
- Linda needs an ER visit.

### Community Agencies

- Clinic
- HIV clinic
- Pharmacy
- Employer
- JFS (wrong form initially due to language barrier)
- ER
- School