

Contact Investigation Skill Development Guide

Practice Scenario Instructions and Worksheets

Instructions: Form pairs or triads; then follow these steps with members of your group:

1. **Read and discuss:** Read the first scenario and discuss your answers to the question. Refer to the sample responses and key points in the Appendix to help focus and guide your discussion.
2. **Role play.** Choose roles (investigator and contact interviewee) to practice applying effective interviewing techniques in this situation.
3. **Debrief.** After the role play, take a few minutes to debrief about challenges, issues, and potential strategies related to this scenario. Discuss how the role play went and how you would handle this type of situation in future field contacts.

Follow the same process for the second scenario, switching roles for the role play exercise.

Basic CI Interviewing Techniques: Practice

Scenario A: Family Members

You are investigating a case of indirectly transmitted disease and are interviewing John, the index case patient, in his hospital isolation room. John's physician told you that John lives with several family members in a small dwelling. You need to secure information from John about the names and ages of the family members and an alternative to the dwelling as way to locate them.

How will you secure this information?

Scenario B: Settings

Later in the interview of John, you need to secure specific information from John about other settings (such as work or hangouts) where he may have acquired or transmitted the causative agent of his indirectly transmitted disease.

How will you secure this information?

CI Interviewing Principles: Practice

Scenario A: Carrier

You are conducting a contact investigation pertaining to Mike O., a carrier of Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Mike has been diagnosed as having active pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) that was highly infectious during the past three weeks, based on his history of a persistent productive cough and the observation by laboratory personnel of many acid-fast bacilli in three of Mike's sputum samples. His diagnosis is unequivocal, based on a positive Mantoux test, chest x-ray and CT scan findings, laboratory findings, and signs and symptoms. When you meet with Mike and tell him you want to speak to him about his TB, he adamantly denies that he has TB and says there's no reason to speak with you further.

How would you handle this situation

Scenario B: Contacts

You've convinced Mike that he has TB and now need to identify contacts exposed to his TB. You know from Mike's attending physician that Mike had been working at an unknown homeless shelter during the three weeks preceding his TB diagnosis. When you ask Mike about where he has worked during the past two months, he states that he has been unemployed during the entire time period.

How would you handle this situation?

How might you motivate John to provide you with detailed and accurate information?

Telephone Contact Investigation: Practice

Scenario A: Wrong Number

You are assigned to locate Mr. Spiro Keats, a contact to primary syphilis. The index case patient reported having had daily sexual intercourse with Spiro during the three-week time period the patient's infectious genital lesion was present. The index patient has told you that Spiro has lived at his residence for 20 years and is reclusive, having few, if any, visitors. You have confirmed Spiro's phone number and call him: a male answers, you ask to speak with Spiro, and the male says, "You've got the wrong number."

How would you respond to the person?

Scenario B: Who are you?

You are a 45-year-old male disease investigator assigned to locate Tina, a 16-year-old girl who has been exposed to HIV, hepatitis C, and hepatitis B through needle sharing with her 25-year-old boyfriend to inject crystal meth. Tina is the daughter of affluent parents who reside in a suburb. You call the telephone number you've been given to reach Tina; a male answers, you ask to speak to Tina, and the male responds, "I'm her father. Who are you? And why do you want to talk to my daughter?"

How would you respond to the person?

Field Contact Investigation: Practice

Scenario A: Field Visit

You are a 25-year-old female disease investigator. You have been assigned to interview Larry, a 49-year-old male who has been diagnosed as having HIV infection. You try to reach Larry by telephone to arrange the interview and the number is disconnected. You make a field visit to his residence at 6:30 p.m. You knock on the door, and a woman in her 40's answers the door; you ask to speak with Larry and the woman, with suspicion in her voice and on her face, calls out to Larry. A man arrives at the doorway and the woman remains.

What would you do under these circumstances?

Scenario B: Notification

You are a colleague of the investigator in Scenario 1. You are assigned to notify the woman in that scenario, who is Larry's wife, of her exposure to HIV infection.

What key issues must you consider in formulating a plan to make the notification?