

## Visual Case Analysis (VCA) Practice Exercise 2

*These practice exercises are intended for participants of the NCSD DIS VCA Training session held in July 2022. These practice exercises may be used or distributed for training purposes only outside of the NCSD training session by contacting the author, Emily Fussell, at [EFussell@MarionHealth.org](mailto:EFussell@MarionHealth.org)*

### **Prior to practicing, you will need:**

Colored pencils (*preferably erasable*) – black, red, green, orange, blue

Black marker or ink pen

Infectious Syphilis Epidemiologic Analysis Chart (12 months) – printed on legal size paper (*preferably the one you started in Exercise 1*)

VCA Pocket Assistant

### **Practice Exercises**

Johannes York tested positive for syphilis on 4/6/2022. He came into the STD clinic for testing and preventative treatment after being notified by a Disease Intervention Specialist at the county health department that he may have been exposed to syphilis. During the appointment, Johannes also had an HIV-1 antibody test (blood sample) that was negative, and a chlamydia/gonorrhea NAAT (urine sample) that was also negative.

Johannes presented to the STD clinic with a rash on his hands and feet. When the rash was pointed out to Johannes, he said he had noticed it but thought it was related to his seasonal allergies. He had not tried any over-the-counter medications to deal with it. Johannes stated the rash had been present for about 25 days. The physician orders Johannes to receive Bicillin that day and diagnoses him with secondary syphilis based on his symptom presentation and known exposure.

He receives Bicillin 2.4 mu x1 dose on 4/6/2022. He schedules a future appointment to have his RPR drawn again in 3 months. Upon further review of Johannes' STD history, it's discovered that he previously reports having sex with both men and women and was last tested in August 2021 – at that time, Johannes was negative for chlamydia/gonorrhea (urine and rectal sample), HIV-1 antibody (blood sample), and had a negative RPR. His reason for testing on 8/10/2021 was listed as routine screening of man who has sex with men. At that visit, he reported having oral and vaginal sex with 1 female partner, and oral and anal sex with male partners. He reports living at home with his girlfriend. He feels safe at home. He reports his girlfriend is not pregnant.

Exercise 1: Review Johannes' VCA. What do you need to add to it, given the information you've discovered during pre-interview analysis?

Johannes returns to the clinic and speaks to the DIS on 4/11/2022, 4 days after his positive labs resulted. During the interview, Johannes becomes distraught. He has been in a relationship for 3 years with his girlfriend, so the news of testing positive for syphilis has been an upset for him. He is initially hesitant to discuss his sexual partners. However, after you confront him about his sexual partners from the previous August and inform him of the risk of congenital syphilis, he begins to give you information.

#### FOUNDATION

<b>NUMBER OF PARTNERS: 3</b>
<b>BEHAVIORS: ORAL (G/R), ANAL (I/R), VAGINAL</b>
<b>SETTINGS: HOMES/HOTELS, CARS, BARS</b>

NAME	RYAN WILLIAMS	CARMELA RODRIGUEZ	ANTHONY MOORE
<b>EXPOSURE</b>	FSE: 1/1/2014 LSE: 12/27/2021 Freq: 2x per wk Type: Oral (G/R), Anal (I/R)	FSE: 1/1/2018 LSE: 3/14/2022 Freq: 3x per wk Type: Oral (G/R), Vaginal	FSE: 2/19/2022 LSE: 3/29/2022 Freq: 1x per week Type: Oral (G/R), Anal (I/R)
<b>LOCATING</b>	Indianapolis, IN 555-4357 (cell) Blue home with rose bush by front door Works at Anthem BC/BS downtown  Met at Sportman's Bar and Grill	Indianapolis, IN 555-4358 (cell) Lives with OP Works at Roots Hair Care  Met thru friends	McCordsville, IN 555-4359 (cell) Lives with sister – yellow house, grey shutters Unemployed  Met on Grindr
<b>CLUSTERING</b>	None at this time	None at this time	None at this time
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	AA, 6ft, long locs, male Brown eyes Tattoo across chest Silver/diamond grill	Hispanic, 5.2ft, female Brown eyes Long black hair	Middle Eastern, about 6 ft, dark hair, dark eyes Very muscular

Johannes was very adamant that Carmela could not know about his additional sex partners, who both are male. You reassured him that you legally could not tell Carmela his private health information but took the opportunity to remind him the risk he is putting Carmela at by not informing her of his additional sex partners. You asked Johannes if he remembers seeing any sores on his partners and showed him the picture cards, and Johannes explains that his long-time sex partner, Ryan, had a sore on his mouth around Christmas the last time they had sex. Johannes remembers this because Ryan wouldn't let Johannes kiss him, stating it was a cold sore, but did perform oral sex on him while the sore was present. Johannes did not note any other partners with symptoms.

You call the two male partners the next day and inform them of their exposure. They both agree to come to the STD clinic to be screened and to receive preventative treatment. Review their labs, treatment, and symptoms below:

NAME	RYAN WILLIAMS	CARMELA RODRIGUEZ	ANTHONY MOORE
DATE OF TESTING	04/15/2022	03/28/2022	04/13/2022
STD TESTING	+RPR 1:64, +EIA	+RPR 1:32, +EIA	NR RPR
STD TREATMENT	Bicillin 2.4mu, 1 dose	Bicillin 2.4mu, 1 dose	Refused treatment
SYMPTOMS	No active s/s at appointment	Presented with labial lesion	No active s/s at appointment

Exercise 2: Review all information on Ryan Williams, Carmela Rodriguez, and Anthony Moore.

1. Which partners need to be added to the existing VCA? Why?
  - a. If indicated, add partners to the VCA.
2. How are you going to stage Ryan's syphilis case? Why?
3. What are your inferences about the source/spread analysis? What evidence do you have to support your claim? Practice writing your source/spread justification.
4. What are the next steps with Johannes' case? Why?