

Common Clinical Scenarios at JVMC

Drug / Alcohol use in general

- How much are you using per day? How often / day?
- Do you use alone or with others?
- Has anyone ever told you it was a problem?
- Have you ever tried to cut down on your use? How long did it last?

Heroin Users

Some questions you could ask a heroin user:

With regards to drug use:

- How much are you using per day?
- Do you use alone or with others?
- Do you share needles?
- Do you have access to clean needles, cotton, and cookers?
- How do you clean your needles?
- Do you lick the needle before injecting?
- Have you ever had an abscess before?

With regards to quitting:

- Have you ever been enrolled in methadone maintenance?
 - If yes, why did you quit?
- Are you interested in trying a maintenance program again?

Hep C and HIV patients

- Have you ever been told you are Hep C positive?
 - If yes: when were you diagnosed
 - how were you infected
 - have you been followed by any doctors throughout the course of your illness
 - have you ever had a liver biopsy
 - have you ever had a liver function panel done (blood draw)
 - are you aware of the effects of drinking alcohol (analogy: drinking alcohol with Hep C is like throwing gasoline on a burning fire).
- Have you ever been told you are HIV positive?
 - If yes: when were you diagnosed
 - how were you infected
 - have you been followed by any doctors throughout the course of your illness
 - have you had a T-cell count recently
 - what medications are you currently taking.

Patient presenting with an abscess:

- When did the abscess appear?
- Has the patient had abscesses before?
 - If yes, what antibiotics were they treated with?
- Has the patient ever had a culture done and been told they have MRSA (multi-resistant *Staph aureus*) bacteria growing in their abscess?
- Is the patient experiencing chills, night sweats, or fevers?
- How many active abscesses does the patient have right now?
- Has the patient already tried to drain the abscess? If so, how?
- Does the patient have clean bandaging materials (gauze and tape)?