



## Mock Interview Training for Taking a Sexual History during Communicable Disease Investigations

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<b>NOTE:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Script accompanies audio of taped interview.</li> <li>• This script is written as part of a larger interview, with preceding questions about less sensitive topics such as prior travel and food exposures. Before asking sensitive questions about sex, it is important to have set the tone as friendly, respectful, and welcoming. If these questions make you feel uncomfortable, it may be helpful to practice asking these questions with others prior to talking to a case so that your discomfort is not evident in your voice. Finally, this script is meant as a guide. It is often better for rapport-building to not sound like you're reading a script, but rather maintain a conversational tone.</li> </ul>	
<b>Epidemiologist – Hep A Case Script for Sexual History Taking Training</b>	
Epi	I'm now going to ask you a few questions about your sexual practices during this time period. Just so you know, I ask these questions to all cases with Hepatitis A. These questions are as important as the questions about your recent travel and what you've been eating. This information helps us understand how this disease may be spreading and helps us to learn what prevention methods might help our community protect themselves. Like all the other questions, this information is completely confidential. Do you have any questions before we get started?
Case	I guess I don't see why you have to ask questions about my sex life! Why do you have to ask questions about that? This feels really personal.
Epi	I know that these questions can sometimes make people uncomfortable but they are a standard part of our evaluation and an important part of your health. If you don't feel comfortable answering a question, we can move on. Please remember that this information is completely confidential.
Case	Ok I guess.
Epi	OK, thanks. So, some people have sex with men, some with women, and some with both. What I mean by sex is more than just penetration and also includes oral sex and sexual playing. Who do you have sex with?
Case	Well, I'm married, so I have sex with women.
Epi	OK. Do you have sex with anyone else? Don't forget that whatever you tell me is completely confidential.
Case	Well .... I do have sex occasionally with other guys.
Epi	How many male partners have you had during this time period that we've been discussing?

Case	Umm.....let me think.....I would guess I have had about 10 male partners.
Epi	How many female partners have you had during this period?
Case	Just my wife.
Epi	I know that sexuality is complex and that some people identify as straight or gay or bisexual regardless of who they have sex with. How would you identify? Do you consider yourself gay, bi, heterosexual, or is there another word that better fits your sexuality?
Case	I guess I would consider myself straight. Heterosexual.
Epi	How do you meet your sexual partners? For example, some people meet their partners online, on Apps, or at adult stores such as adult video arcades or bookstores.
Case	Well, I guess I've met most of my recent sexual partners at adult arcades.
Epi	Which adult arcades in particular have you met partners during this time period?
Case	I usually go to this place called Circus Cinemas down the road from my work.
Epi	Thanks, that is really helpful information. Have you met partners at other adult stores during this period, such as Romantix, Adult World, or Kitty's Theatre?  <i>[Note: Interviewer can use statements to show normalization or validation - both as a way to indicate that the interviewer knows about places to meet or has no judgement about places to meet.]</i>
Case	No, just Circus Cinemas.
Epi	Would you say that you know most of your partners, or are most of your partners anonymous?  <i>[If necessary, define: 'when I say anonymous, this means that you don't really have a way to contact them']</i>
Case	I think all my sex partners in the past few months have been anonymous.
Epi	Do you ever hook up online through a website like Craigslist or use an App like Grindr?
Case	No, I don't.
Epi	During this time period, have you met up with partners at other locations such as nightclubs, bars or bath houses?
Case	Now that I think about it, I have met a couple of partners at this club called Tracks.
Epi	<i>[There is an opportunity to build rapport on the part of the interviewer. Something like: 'I hear from other people that I talk to that Tracks is a really fun place']</i>  Thanks. I am going to be more explicit here about the kind of sex you've had during this time period. This will help me understand if you could have gotten

	Hepatitis A from a sexual encounter or if it is possible that you could have given the virus to one of your sex partners.
Case	Wow. Do you really need to know this?
Epi	I know this feels uncomfortable, but by knowing what type of sex you are having helps me understand if you could be vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections including Hepatitis A. Also, remember that everything that you tell me is completely confidential. This is a safe space, with no judgement.  <i>[Alternatively: 'That is up to you, of course. The reason I am asking is that so we can gather information about how Hep A is spreading, so that we can make locations safer to enjoy healthy sexual activity. You've been so helpful with your answers, I really appreciate your time.']</i>
Case	Ok. (deep sigh).
Epi	What kind of sexual contact do you have had during this time period? Genital sex, meaning penis in the vagina? Anal sex, meaning penis in the anus? Or oral sex, meaning mouth on penis, vagina, or anus?
Case	Well, I have vaginal sex with my wife.
Epi	OK. What about with your male partners? What type of sex do you have with your male partners?  <i>[Note: Keep in mind that his wife might not be aware of his sexual activity with other persons.]</i>
Case	I guess I've had oral and anal sex.
Epi	When you say that you have oral sex, are you typically the giving partner, meaning that you put your penis in your partner's mouth, or are you the receiving partner, meaning that your partner puts his penis in your mouth?
Case	I guess I do both, but usually I am the giving partner.
Epi	OK. And when you have anal sex, are you the top or bottom partner? By "top partner", I mean that your penis is in contact with your partner's anus, and by "bottom partner" I mean that your partner's penis is in contact with your anus.
Case	I'm usually the bottom partner.
Epi	How about rimming? By that, I mean, do you put your tongue in contact with the anal rim of your partner or does your partner put his tongue in contact with your anal rim?
Case	Yes, sometimes I rim my partner.
Epi	What kind of sex have you had with partners that you've met at Circus Cinemas during this time period?
Case	It would have been both oral and anal. And I guess rimming, too.
Epi	How about at the club Tracks?
Case	I'm pretty sure that I've only had oral sex with partners that I meet at Tracks.
Epi	How often would you say you use condoms with anal sex? For example, would you say that you use condoms some of the time, always, or never?

Case	I would say sometimes. Maybe 50/50.
Epi	During this time period, do you know if you've had sex with someone who had diarrhea?
Case	Gross! No, not that I know of.
Epi	How about sex with any partners who were ill at the time?
Case	No, not to my knowledge.
Epi	Sometimes people have sex after using drugs or drinking alcohol. During this time period, did you ever have sex after using drugs or drinking alcohol?
Case	I guess now that I think about it, yes, I usually smoke meth before going to Circus Cinemas.
Epi	Did you use any other drugs during this time period?
Case	Occasionally I use cocaine, but not that often.
Epi	Do you ever inject drugs?
Case	No. I hate needles and I've never injected.
Epi	Thanks so much for being willing to talk with me today. I know that some of these questions seem really intrusive, but it helps me to understand how you could be at risk for getting Hepatitis A, and if others could have been exposed to the virus. Also, please remember that everything that you have told me will remain confidential. Do you have any questions for me?

**NOTE:** It is important to take the opportunity to counsel the case about risk or harm reduction, where appropriate. This counseling is guided by their reported behavior, and is usually best given at the end of this section on sexual and drug-taking behavior. Examples of risk reduction counseling are below:

If the Case reports having condomless sex:

- State that condoms help protect against HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases and should be used during each act of oral, anal and vaginal sex.

If the Case reports engaging in rimming:

- State that rimming is one of the riskiest sexual practices for transmission of certain bacteria and viruses with fecal-oral spread. For example, Hepatitis A and Shigella are spread from one person to another in this way. This happens because no matter how well someone wipes, there is always fecal bacteria at the anus. One way to minimize risk of spread of disease while rimming is to use a dental dam.

If the Case reports using intravenous drugs:

- State that IV drug use can cause skin infections because needles break that skin barrier which keeps germs out. If someone makes the decision to use IV drugs, it is



important to always use a clean needle and only inject after cleaning the skin with soap and water or with an alcohol swab.

- State that sharing needles or other drug paraphernalia makes one susceptible to a number of serious infections including HIV and the hepatitis viruses. Needle-syringe programs offer clean needles and a safe way to dispose of used needles. Colorado has many needle-syringe programs; ask the case if they are interested to learn more about where the closest one is to them.