

The
BBV and STI anti-Stigma
and Discrimination
TOOL KIT

** The original toolkit was developed by the CHANGE Project AED (Academy for Educational Development) and the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), in partnership with the International HIV/AIDS Alliance.**

This resource was inspired by previous projects* in the field of stigma, discrimination and rights in the area of Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs) and Sexually Transmitted Illnesses (STIs).

These series of pictures have been designed to help educators and trainers facilitate discussion around the stigma and discrimination that people who may have a BBV or an STI may face.

The pictures can be used as a set or can be used individually. A short description and a set of sample questions/prompts are given to facilitate the discussions. The pictures can be used as whole group discussion or divided up in smaller groups of people.

The aim of this toolkit is to decrease stigmatised views and discriminatory attitudes, increase awareness around BBV and STI, and help to dissipate myths and falsehoods around these illnesses. The facilitators are encouraged to seek authoritative sites and organisations so that information and facts around healthy relationships, transmission, symptoms and treatments of the major BBV and STI can be provided.



COFFEE SHOP



- What do you think is happening here?
- Do you think the two workers sitting together are being supportive of their colleague?
- Why do you think the guy reading the results is feeling isolated?
- What could improve?

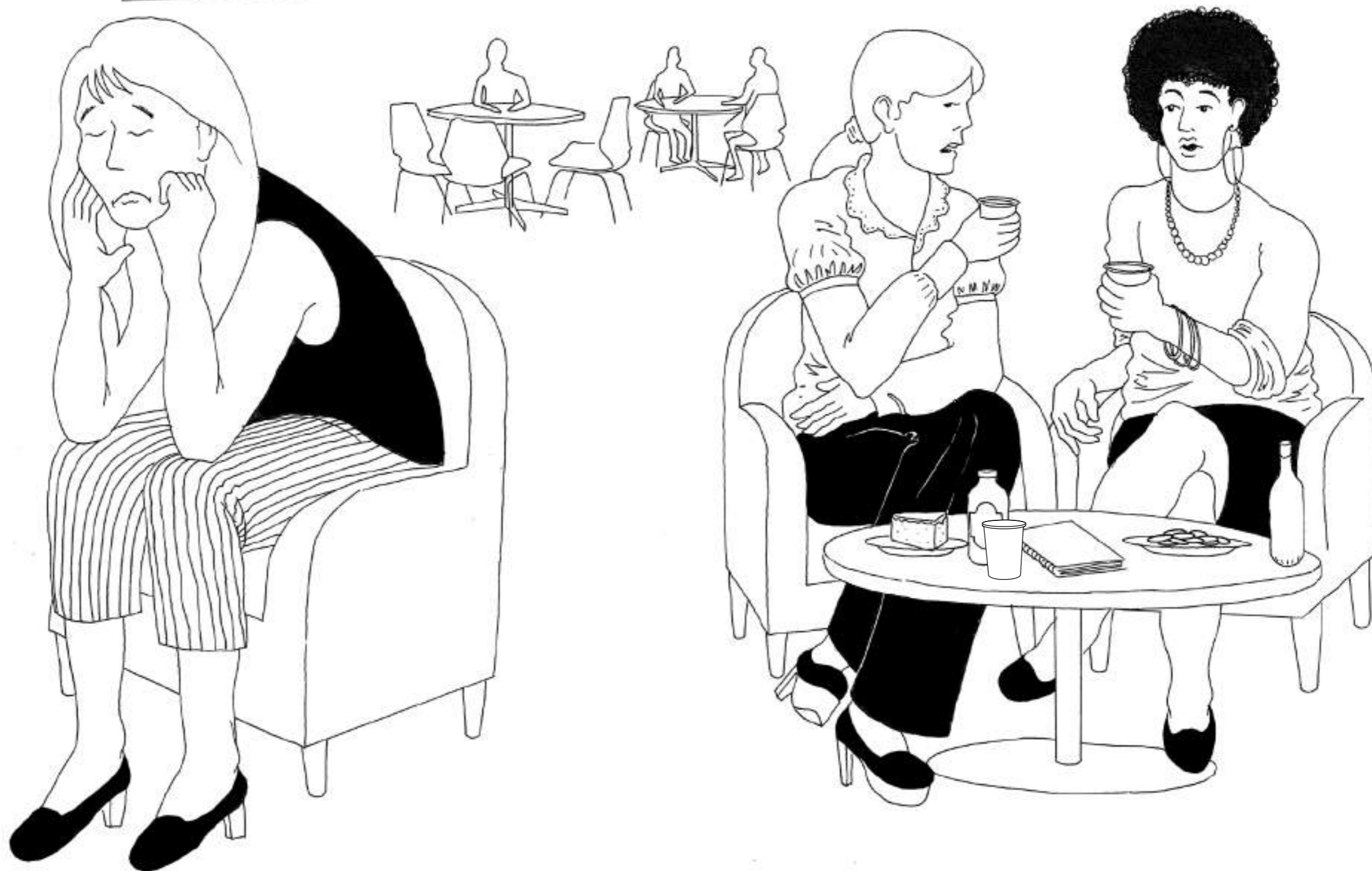


- Why do you think the two people are laughing at the woman who has just dropped the condom out of her handbag?
- Do you think it is good for women to plan ahead about safe sex as well as men?
- Do you think the two people would have had the same reaction if the person dropping the condom had been a guy?
- Why do you think so?



- Why do you think the family is eating separately?
- How do you think this makes the dad feel? And the rest of the family?
- Where do you think the family has got this information that they should not be eating together?
- Do you know if this is correct?
- How would you find out?

FOOD COURT



These three women were good friends, but now they are sitting apart. The woman in the black top has HIV.

- Why do you think they are sitting apart?
- What are they afraid of?
- How could the friends help the woman with HIV?



The young man has just got his results that shows he has hepatitis C.

- He looks very scared and lonely. Why do you think he does?
- Do you think he is right in feeling like this?
- What should he do now?



The son wants his family to know about his HIV but he was scared to tell so he asked a nurse to come.

- What is the son afraid of?
- How do you think the family is reacting?
- Do you think that a nurse/health worker explaining to the family is a good idea?
- What would you do?



All religions have rules but some religious leaders are more inflexible and judgmental than others around issues of sex and behaviours.

- Do you think that being very strict helps to support and understand people?
- How do you think being labeled a sinner makes people feel?
- Does judging people help in prevention of Sexually Transmitted Illnesses (STIs) and Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs)?



The two colleagues have found out about Min's hepatitis B infection.

- Why do you think the two colleagues are reacting like they are?
- Should they be treating Min differently?
- How would the workplace reassure Min?



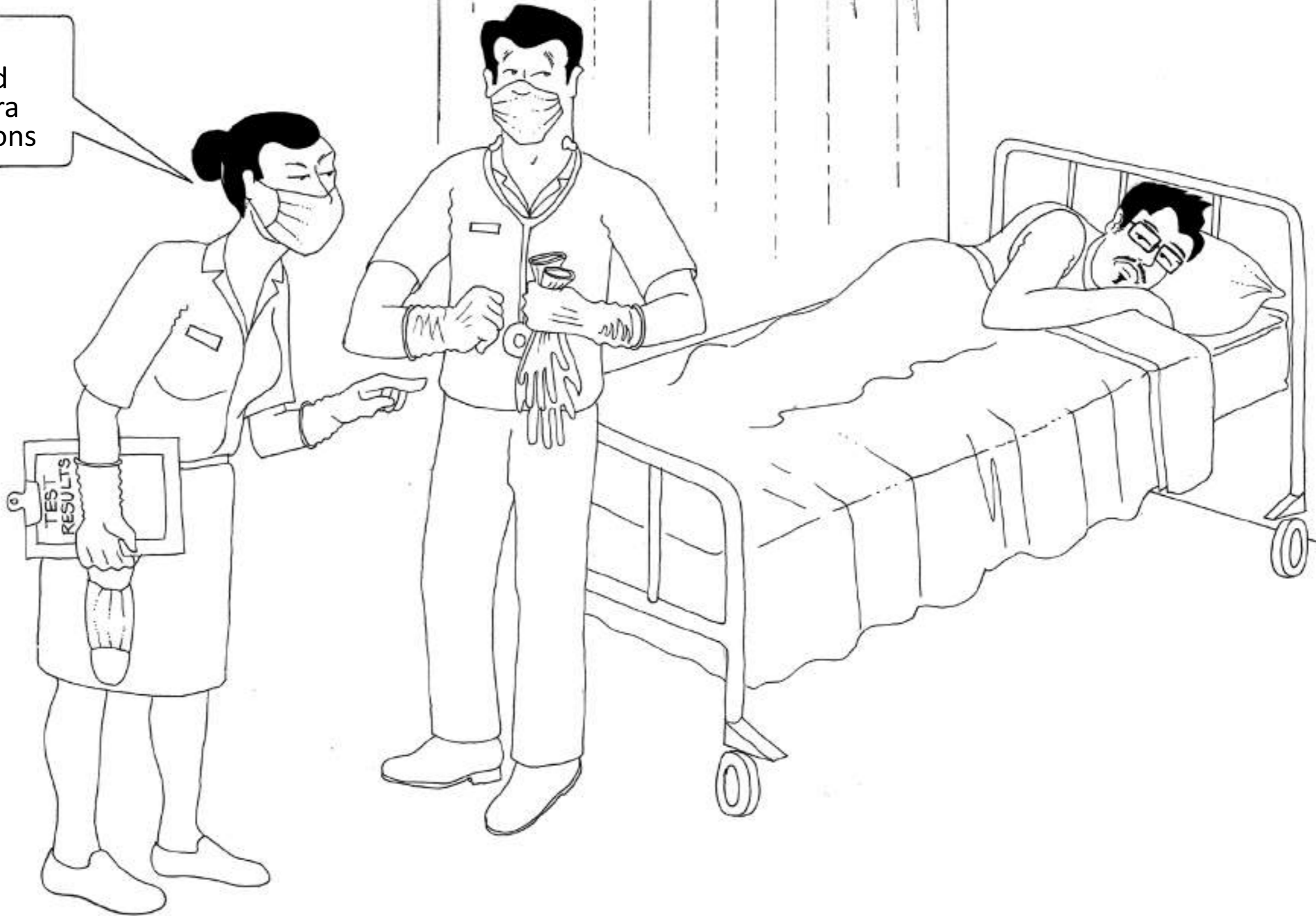
NURSE'S STATION



All BBVs and STIs are either manageable or treatable with medicines.

- This is good news, but why do you think people still feel that they need to hide the fact that they are taking medicines?
- Health workers know all about managing and treating Blood Borne Viruses (BBV) and Sexually Transmitted illnesses (STIs), but many still have negative attitudes to people with these viruses. Why do you think so?
- What could be done?

OH!
I would
use extra
precautions



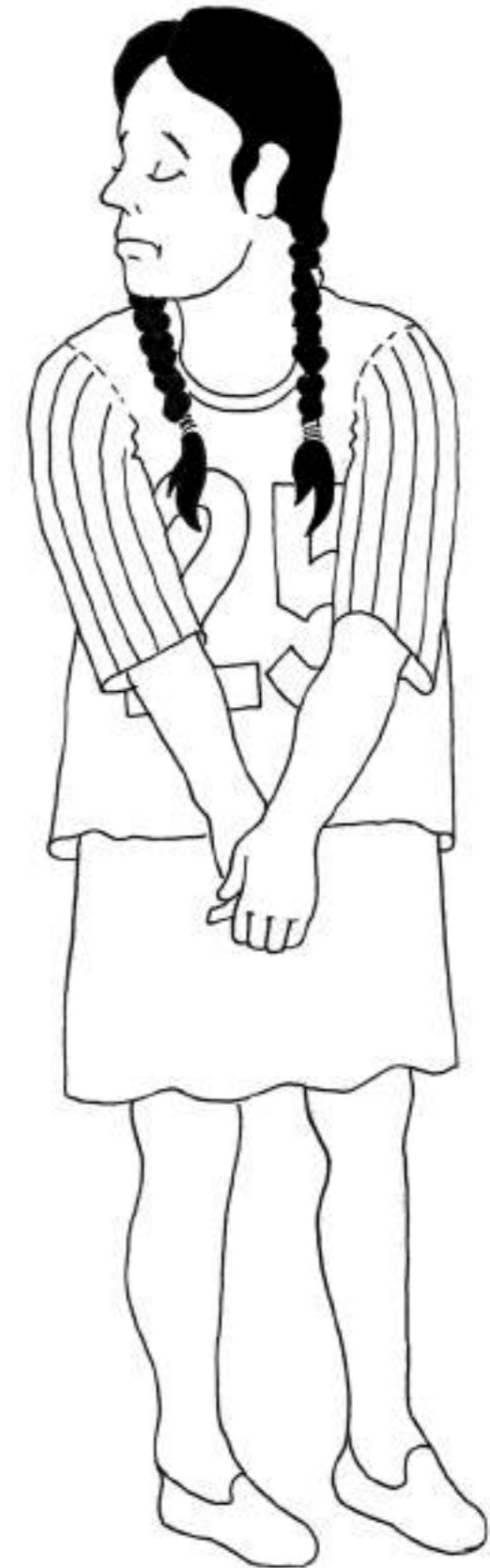
Standard/universal infection control measures are there to keep everyone safe at all times. They protect everyone all the time.

- Even knowing this, some people, once they find a patient has an infectious disease, feel they need to take 'extra precautions'. There is no evidence for this, so why do they want to do it?
- Do people have the right to know other people's health status, just so they can feel safe?
- How do taking 'extra precautions' make the patient feel?
- What would you do?



The mum has discovered a condom in the bedroom of her 17 year old son.

- Why does he look scared?
- What do you think is going to happen?
- Should the mum be angry/worried about her son's behaviour or happy that he is taking precautions?
- What would you do?



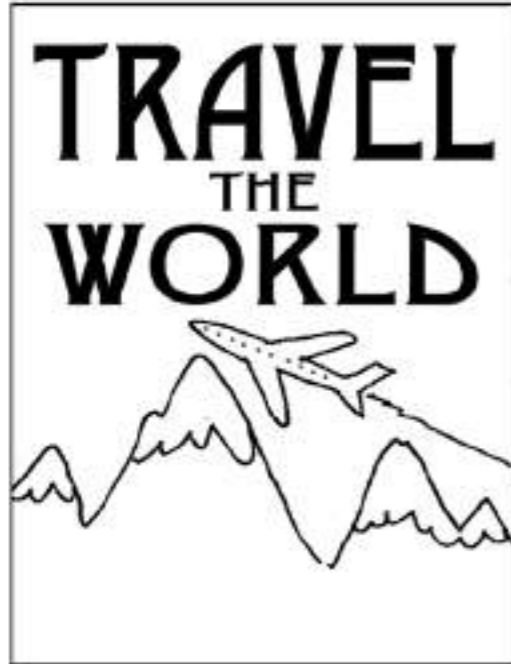
The mum of the girl with plats has hepatitis B. She may have it as well.

- Why do you think the other kids are not playing with her?
- Where do children learn this information from?
- How do you think the girl with plats is feeling?
- What would be better?



The young woman is single and pregnant. Her family is kicking her out.

- Why do you think she is being kicked out of the house?
- Why do you think the parents are reacting this way?
- Do you think this is a good decision?
- Is this going to help her or the baby?



IMMIGRATION
OFFICE



When applying to migrate to Australia, people can sometimes be rejected if their health status is assessed to cost the Australian medical system too much. It can be argued, but it takes money and time.

Both hepatitis B and HIV are one of these health issues.

- How do you think this makes people, especially those with less money, feel when applying for visas?
- Do you think this encourages people to talk about their illnesses?
- This is an example of structural barriers. What can be done about it?



- Why do you think the man is hiding the fact that he has to take medicines for Sexually Transmitted Illnesses (STIs)?
- What is he afraid of?
- Should he tell his partner, so that they can get tested?
- Can there also be wider family pressures in this scenario?
- What would you do?



The woman has just tested positive to an Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI).

- Why is the boyfriend so angry that he is kicking her out?
- What is he afraid of?
- Does this look like a healthy relationship?
- Is there an issue around who contracted the Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) first?
- What would you do?



The man has just tested positive to a Sexually Transmitted Illness (STI)

- What is he afraid of?
- Should have he tested in the first place?
- How should he tell them?



In Australia it is illegal to discriminate against people on the basis of them having an Sexually Transmitted Illness (STI) or a Blood Borne Virus (BBV). While it is illegal, it is also hard to fight in courts. Short or insecure employment contracts make this more difficult.

- How would you react in this situation?
- Why would employers discriminate against you?
- What could be done to prevent this?



Someone in the family with kids has tested positive for HIV.

- Why is the extended family kicking the couple with the kids out?
- What are they afraid of? What are their reasons?
- How will this affect the family being kicked out?
- What would you do?