

Case Study #4

The patient (JL) is a 62 yo man with HIV/AIDS initially diagnosed in 2002. He also has diabetes and chronic hepatitis C. He quit drinking alcohol in 2002 but continued to smoke tobacco and use crack cocaine intermittently. He returned into care in October 2013 after receiving no HIV or primary care for 2-3 years.

At this point, his CD4 count was 293 and viral load was about 75,000 copies/ml. He had last used cocaine 3-4 days previously but stated "I can quit anytime." He returned for a follow-up visit 1 month later, anxious to resume antiretroviral medication. He had not used cocaine in approximately 3 weeks, and denied any anxiety about his ability to remain clean – "I'm in a really good place right now."

He was given new prescriptions and instructions to obtain labs in 3 weeks and return to clinic in one month. He has not followed up with obtaining labs, and has missed this and another subsequent visit. His phone number is now disconnected and so the clinic is unable to reach out to him to return to care.

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