



Howard University College of Medicine Capitol Region Telehealth Project (HU CRTP)

Case Study for: January 14, 2015 Webinar: "HIV and Gender-Based Violence"

Case Study

- Sandy delivered Emily, a baby girl, and asked her attending if she could stay and rest for two additional days prior to being discharged. Her delivery was uncomplicated. When the discharge nurse informed her that her request was denied, Sandy burst out in tears and said she could not take the baby home. The nurse soothed her saying that she was, "just having a little post-partum blues" and indicated that this was "common for most women after giving birth."
- Sandy became inconsolable and shared that her husband would often slap and shove her before her pregnancy. His abuse escalated during her pregnancy when she tested positive for HIV. She was now concerned that the "abuse" would start again or even escalate further now that she has given birth and when the baby would cry.
- When questioned she explained that she never shared information about the abuse with anyone or sought help because Kirk did not use any weapons and he never caused her "to bleed or even break any bones." Kirk is 11 years her senior and has a son from a previous marriage.

From HU CRTP Case Study Bank

