

## **Infectious Diseases in Addiction Treatment**

CAC Level I Required Class

### **Overview of Training**

Drug and alcohol abuse and infectious diseases go hand in hand. Anyone who is abusing drugs is at high risk for contracting and spreading infectious diseases. Understanding of diseases that might affect clients who are addicted to alcohol and other substances is a cornerstone of addiction counseling. This class will help prepare addiction professionals to identify such diseases, determine client risk for infection, educate clients about disease prevention and treatment options, and assist clients in obtaining appropriate treatment as needed. All CAC required classes seek to enhance the ability of the counselor to offer treatment services in a manner that respects gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, cultural, familial, systemic and socioeconomic diversity.

### **Course Content**

- Overview of the immune system, and its relationship to other anatomical systems. Define key terms.
- Describe the ways in which infectious diseases are transmitted. Describe characteristics of bacterial and viral infections.
- Identify and discuss the correlation between the use of substances and infectious diseases, including HIV, tuberculosis and hepatitis.
- Discuss the reasons for infectious disease risk assessment in addiction treatment.
- Review DBH-approved infectious diseases assessments. Describe the process for conducting a risk assessment, and ways of encouraging client involvement in modifying behavior.
- Describe the symptoms and disease progression of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, and hepatitis. Discuss opportunistic infections.
- Discuss the specialized substance use disorder treatment needs and issues arising in the treatment of the HIV-positive client as well with significant others.
- Identify symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) to include gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, scabies/crabs/lice, HPV, herpes.
- Harm-reduction regarding safe sexual behaviors and ethics. Discuss cultural issues regarding education about harm reduction.
- Discuss cultural vulnerabilities and reactions to infectious diseases. Discuss partner notification.
- Discuss healthy versus unhealthy relationships, communication, boundary development and maintenance, and the influence of traumatic experiences.

### **Demonstration of Competencies**

Upon completion of this training class, the participant will be able to:

- Describe the ways in which infectious diseases are transmitted
- Identify and discuss the correlation between the use of mind-altering chemicals and infectious diseases including HIV, tuberculosis and hepatitis
- Discuss the reasons for infectious disease risk assessment in addiction treatment
- Describe the process for conducting a risk assessment and ways of encouraging client involvement in modifying behavior
- Identify symptoms of STDs and discuss safe sex guidelines
- Describe the symptoms and disease progression of HIV and AIDS

- Demonstrate an understanding of the specialized substance use disorder treatment needs and issues arising in the treatment of the HIV positive client as well as his/her family
- Demonstrate an ability to conduct a safe sex/harm reduction discussion, including proper use and disposal of condoms and dental dams
- Document client condition, education provided and intervention in client records
- Discuss the relationships amongst healthy vs. toxic relationships, boundary development and maintenance, and the influence of traumatic experiences