

Goal: Participants will review the following scenarios to identify risk situations and propose safer practices.

1. The Tuberculosis (TB) Program Outreach Team is conducting its daily round of directly observed therapy (DOT) administration and contact investigation follow-up with a caseload of 15 clients with active TB who reside on the west side of Chicago. Many of the patients are drug users and, as a result, the team must drive around cruising their patient's favorite hang outs to look for them. During the course of the day the team also transports patients to the clinic for check-ups and provides TB screening skin tests to close contacts who may have been exposed to TB cases when they were infectious. The work is non-stop and the team is so busy that they often skip lunch to complete their work.

The team found Bobby, a cocaine smoker, at the busy intersection where he usually can be found every afternoon hustling money by washing car windshields. The team calls him over to the van where he gets inside to be observed taking his TB meds. As he gets ready to leave, one worker looks at her notes and realizes that Bobby is past due for his clinic visit. She convinces him to go to the clinic and offer to transport him.

As they take off down Ogden Avenue, the worker who is driving decides to call ahead to the clinic to let them know that they are bringing Bobby in. He thinks about asking his co-worker for the cellular phone, which is near her, but decides not to when he sees she is documenting that morning's work. He reaches over for the cell phone on the dashboard and it becomes unplugged. As he drives he manages to locate the cord and plug it back into the lighter. He then begins to dial the clinic number but makes a mistake and needs to find the Clear button so that he can dial again. He takes his eyes off the traffic several times in order to make sure he gets the number right. He has done this many times in the past and he feels confident that his driving skills are capable enough to avoid an accident. Bobby continues to have a discussion with him as he tries to get through the switchboard at the clinic.

2. Ms James is a Home Care Nurse who is on her way to the second patient she must visit today. She is responsible for administering IV medications, monitoring vital signs and assuring that the patient is taking prescribed oral medications.

While on route, Ms. James checks her list of patients to see how many she has scheduled for the day. Ms. James also decides to pull the chart for the next patient to review while on her way since this is a new client and she needs to familiarize herself with the needs and condition of the patient.

This is her full time job but she also works a second job at a local hospital emergency room. Ms. James just completed a 7 PM to 7 AM shift at the hospital. She feels tired but she has done this before and is sure that after her third cup of coffee this morning she will be fine.

Ms. James always makes sure that her bag with medications and instruments are in the trunk of her car. Her hospital uniform and stethoscope lay next to her in the front seat of the car.

She must travel 45 minutes to her visit. 15 minutes are on a highway and the other thirty minutes are on a not-so-busy road which crosses several busy intersections. It is the middle of winter, temperatures are cold, there is some ice on the road and snow.

The facilitator may lead a discussion of the scenarios, identifying risks and safer practices.