AIDS HELP WEST

- CAIRDE - SUPPORT FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS
- HELPLINE - INFORMATION ON HIV/AIDS. 10AM - 12NOON helpline daytime only
- EDUCATION - SPEAKERS AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOLS AND GROUPS *and workshops

- OZANAM HOUSE, ST. AUGUSTINE STREET, GALWAY. TEL. (091) 66266. FAX (091) 64708.

Add 5 at beginning of fax and phone numbers 566266

Fax Message

For the attention of Ronan Coghlan

From: David AIDS Help West, Galway. Fax 091-564708

Date +Time: 20/8 10.30 [illegible]

Total number of pages 04 including this cover sheet

Ronan

Take A Look please.

David

191.1.5.12.2107

My text with John Williams Comments Incorporated:

Safer Sex and HIV+ gay men.

There are many health issues facing gay or bisexual men living with HIV or AIDS. Relationships often present different issues for gay or bisexual men living with HIV/AIDS. Safer sex materials are often geared towards men who aren't positive. Many people choose to forget or ignore the fact that men living with the virus continue to have sexual needs and desires, which are carried out with men who may be HIV positive; HIV negative; or men who simply do not know their HIV status. Sex and relationships are important parts of our lives and for HIV+ men there are certain issues which need to be highlighted and discussed.

Why is safer sex important for HIV+ gay men?

*Safer sex is important for positive men because the use of a condom can provide protection from other infections. There are two dangers for HIV+ people in contracting a sexually transmitted disease. Firstly, an STD can be painful and difficult to get rid of, and secondly, many STD infections are thought to weaken the immune system.

*The proper use of a condom can safeguard against the risk of reinfection with a different strain of HIV. It is now known that the virus mutates and that new forms develop during the course of infection. The risk of having unprotected sex means that a person could become infected with a strain of HIV which may be resistant to anti-HIV drugs such as AZT. This could then limit treatment options at a later date. The full effects of reinfection with HIV are still unclear, so this risk needs to be considered when deciding on what kind of sex to have.

*When having penetrative sex (fucking) with men who are HIV negative or of unknown status, a good quality condom will provide the best protection from HIV.

What about partners who want to have sex without condoms?

Being concerned about a partner's wellbeing is a good thing, but it should be remembered that safer sex is a shared responsibility and that two people are involved in negotiating it. However, if someone wants to fuck without a condom, it may be up to you to raise the subject. This does not necessarily mean that you have to disclose your HIV status, all that needs to be said is 'I'll only do this if we use a condom'.

Outreach workers and organisations are for anyone concerned about HIV. Contact your local group for information and condoms.

Listings:

With Bills Changes

Safer sex and HIV + gay men

Men living with the virus continue to have sexual needs and desires, which are carried out with men who may be HIV positive; HIV negative; or men who simply do not know their HIV status. Sex and relationships are important parts of our lives and for HIV+ men there are some issues of particular concern.

The use of a condom can provide protection from other infections. There are two dangers for HIV+ people in contracting a sexually transmitted disease. Firstly, an STD can be painful and difficult to get rid of, and secondly, many STD infections are thought to weaken the immune system.

Sex between positive men.
It is now known that the virus can mutate easily and rapidly become resistant to medication. Resistant strains can be passed on to others and this could then limit treatment options at a later date. The full effects of reinfection with HIV remain unclear.
When having penetrative sex (fucking), a good quality condom will provide the best protection from reinfection.

Sex with Others.
Safer sex is a shared-responsibility that two people are involved in negotiating. If someone wants to fuck without a condom, it may be up to you to raise the subject. This does not necessarily mean that you have to disclose your HIV status, all that needs to be said is 'I'll only do this if we use a condom'.

If you want further information please contact your local group.

Listings:

There are many health issues facing gay or bisexual men living with HIV or AIDS. Relationships often present difficulties. Safer sex materials are often geared towards men who aren't positive. Many people choose to forget or ignore the fact that men living with the virus continue to have sexual needs and desires. These needs may be fulfilled with men who may be HIV positive, HIV negative or men who simply do not know their HIV status. Sex and relationships are important areas of our lives and for HIV+ men there are certain issues which need to be [illegible] and dealt with.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SAFER SEX FOR HIV+ MEN

There are many health issues facing gay or bisexual men living with HIV or AIDS. Relationships often present difficulties. Safer sex materials are often geared towards men who aren't positive. Many people choose to forget or ignore the fact that men living with the virus continue to have sexual needs and desires. These needs may be fulfilled with men who may be HIV positive, HIV negative or men who simply do not know their HIV status. Sex and relationships are important areas of our lives and for HIV+ men there are certain

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CONTACT