

Table 1. Three hypothetical patients and recommended management decisions for care of women of reproductive age, from questionnaire administered to primary care residents at Cook County Hospital, 1991

Patient	Decisions
<p>Case 1 A 17-year-old Honduran female presents for her first primary care visit. She has never seen a physician nor been medically treated in her life. Her medical and social history is completely negative. She has never been sexually active but has a new boyfriend. You are assigned to be her primary physician. Would you perform any diagnostic/laboratory tests, perform any counselling, or provide immunizations if she was one of your regular patients in the last year? If so, please list.</p>	<p>Rubella screening/immunization Family planning STD/safe-sex counseling</p>
<p>Case 2 The patient is a 30-year-old obese female diabetic who has been treated with glipizide 10 mg by mouth every morning for two years. She states that she is considering pregnancy. She asks you to tell her the risks of pregnancy and what will help assure the best pregnancy outcome for her. What would you tell her?</p>	<p>Inform her that her risk of congenital anomalies is increased Discontinue oral hypoglycemics Increase glucose control (more visits, chemstrip, hospitalization if needed) Examine eyes</p>
<p>Case 3 The patient is a 33-year-old African American female whose medical history is notable for hypertension of two years' duration, treated with Nifedipine and HCTZ. Her medical history includes two obstetric hospitalizations for normal deliveries. She smokes 1/2 pack per day, uses neither alcohol nor drugs, and works as a supermarket cashier. She presents to you as a new patient and states that she thinks that she is pregnant. Her last menstrual period was 10 weeks ago and a urine pregnancy test is positive. You have a 1/2-hour office visit scheduled: Describe the most important things you would do after you have completed taking her history.</p>	<p>Check blood pressure Measure fundal height Advise to stop smoking Consider changing blood pressure medications Prescribe prenatal iron & vitamins Check urine protein & glucose Refer to prenatal clinic</p>