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**Critical issues: why understanding drug-drug interactions is essential when working with people living with HIV and AIDS**

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Working with people living with HIV and AIDS presents unique challenges and considerations from clinical practitioners. One such area of concern is the medication management of HIV and AIDS. With appropriate medication management, people living with HIV and AIDS can live healthy lives with little to no symptoms. However, when there are multiple medications involved the likelihood of interactions among the medications increases. Further, medication interactions can occur if the person is using alcohol and other substances in addition to their prescribed medications. The purpose of this presentation is to present common drug-drug interactions among medications that are used to treat HIV/AIDS and substances of abuse. Implications for treatment recommendations and future research will also be discussed.

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