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EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY (EPT) FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHLAMYDIA AND GONORRHEA: Partner Information

GUIDE FOR PARTNERS

What are chlamydia and gonorrhea?

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are sexually transmitted infections (STIs) caused by bacteria. They can affect the reproductive and genital tracts (sex organs), throat, and rectum. A person with these diseases can have severe, mild or no symptoms (signs/clues). Signs of both chlamydia and gonorrhea can include burning or pain when urinating (peeing), penile or vaginal discharge, and pain or swelling in the testicles. Infection of the rectum can also cause rectal pain, bleeding, or discharge. Infection of the throat can cause a sore throat. Chlamydia and gonorrhea infection sometimes causes infection of the reproductive organs inside the body (uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries), called Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID), infertility (unable to get pregnant), and ectopic pregnancy (a pregnancy that is outside of the uterus). Gonorrhea can also spread to the blood and joints, which can be deadly. Both chlamydia and gonorrhea can be passed to sex partners without having signs/clues. Having an untreated sex partner is a big factor for getting the infection again and other problems linked to these infections. Treating the sex partners of a person who has chlamydia and/or gonorrhea is a great way to stop the spread of these STIs.

Why am I getting antibiotics or a prescription for antibiotics (medicine)?

One of your sex partners has been tested for and is being treated for either chlamydia, gonorrhea, or both. You need to be treated as you may have the infection and could form major health problems, pass it on to your sex partner (again), or pass it on to others. A healthcare provider has given your sex partner antibiotics (medicine to treat the infection), or a prescription for antibiotics, to give you, so you can be treated for chlamydia and/or gonorrhea, as soon as possible. This is called Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) and is an easier, faster and private way for you to be treated for chlamydia and/or gonorrhea without seeing a healthcare provider. If you are given a prescription for antibiotics (medicine), you can take the prescription to any pharmacy (Rite Aid, CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart and others). Before you go to the pharmacy, look at the prescription paper, and make sure it has your name, date of birth, and address on it. If these are not on the prescription paper, you need to write these items on the paper before taking it to the pharmacy. If you have questions about the prescription or the medicines, you should talk with a healthcare provider or a pharmacist.

Is Expedited Partner Therapy safe?

State law allows healthcare providers to give antibiotics, or a prescription for antibiotics, to patients being treated for chlamydia and/or gonorrhea, to give to their sex partner(s). You should read this sheet and all facts about the medicine that comes from the pharmacy before taking any of the medicine. Make sure you look at the bottle and know how to take the medicine. (You can ask the pharmacist to explain.) These medicines are safe and work well when taken as directed by the pharmacist to treat chlamydia and/or gonorrhea infections in the vagina, penis, or rectum. These medicines may not work well to treat gonorrhea infections of the throat. Even if you take the medicine(s), you need to see a healthcare provider to discuss the medicine you have taken and to be tested for other STIs.



GUIDE FOR PARTNERS CONTINUED

You should NOT TAKE these antibiotics if any of the following are true:

1. IF you have lower stomach pain, pelvic pain, pain during sex, pain in the testicles, or a fever. These could be clues of a bigger problem and you may need another type of medicine.
2. IF you are throwing up or feel like you need to throw up. This could prevent the right amount of medicine being taken into your body and working well.
3. IF you are allergic to or have had a bad reaction (in the past) to any of the antibiotics, or alike medicines, that have been given to you.
4. IF you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

If any of the above is true, you should not take the medicine(s) AND see a healthcare provider as soon as possible for testing and treatment. If you have any questions about the medicine(s), or if you are worried they could cause problems with other medicines you may take, please, talk with a pharmacist or a healthcare provider.

Is it possible to have a serious reaction to these medicines?

If you have taken medicine like these before and did not have any problems, the odds are that you will not have any major side effects. Some people can have a major allergic reaction that may cause trouble breathing, chest tightness, closing of the throat, swelling of the lips or tongue, and hives (itchy bumps on the skin). This can be deadly. If you have any of these signs/clues after taking this medicine, quickly call 911 and seek medical care.

What do I do, if I do not take the medicine(s)?

If you decide not to take the medicine, you should see a healthcare provider, as soon as possible, to be tested for chlamydia, gonorrhea and other STIs.

I do not feel sick. Should I still take these medicine(s)?

Yes. People with a chlamydia and/or gonorrhea infection may not feel sick or have any signs/clues, but you may still have an infection that can cause lasting health problems and can spread to others. Taking the medicine should cure a chlamydia and/or gonorrhea infection.

What should I do after taking the medicine(s)?

Take the medicine for 7 days to fully treat the infection. You should not have sex (vaginal, oral, or anal) until 7 days after you have finished all your medicine. You can get chlamydia and/or gonorrhea again, if you have sex before the medicine cures you and your partner(s). You should see a healthcare provider and be tested for other STIs, including HIV and syphilis. Even if you take the medicine, it is possible to have more than one STI at a time.

What if I have questions?

You can call your healthcare provider or the pharmacy from where you got the antibiotics (you may find the phone number on the prescription paper, bottle or box). You can also call the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services' Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496.

