

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

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Pharmacists



1 Q: WHAT IS EPT?

A: Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT), is the clinical practice of treating the heterosexual sex partner(s) of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea.

Healthcare providers implement EPT by giving patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea antibiotics or an antibiotic prescription to then be given to their heterosexual sex partner(s) without first evaluating the partner(s).

This practice is recommended if it is unlikely that the sex partner(s) will seek timely evaluation and treatment.

2 Q: IS EPT PERMITTED FOR OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS?

A: No. EPT is only for persons diagnosed with chlamydia and/or gonorrhea.

3 Q: WHAT IS THE RECOMMENDED TREATMENT USING EPT?

A: Chlamydia: 100mg doxycycline orally twice daily for 7 days.

Gonorrhea: 800mg of cefixime orally in a single dose PLUS 100mg doxycycline orally twice daily for 7 days IF Chlamydia has not been excluded.

4 Q: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF EPT?

A: EPT decreases rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea reinfection by increasing the number of sex partners appropriately treated for chlamydia and/or gonorrhea.

5 Q: WHAT IS THE PRESCRIPTION FORMAT FOR EPT?

A: All EPT prescriptions, shall include:
(1) name and address of the health care provider or the establishment in which it was dispensed;
(2) date the prescription was issued;
(3) name and dosage of the medication;
(4) directions for the use of the drug by the patient;
(5) number of refills (which will be zero);
(6) if the name, address, and date of birth of the sex partner are available, this should be written on the prescription form.

6 Q: IS LIABILITY FOR PROVIDERS AND PHARMACISTS ADDRESSED IN THE LEGISLATION?

A: No health care professional who, acting in good faith and with reasonable care, prescribes, dispenses or distributes an antimicrobial medication for the treatment or prevention of a communicable disease in accordance with State of New Hampshire Public Health Law RSA 141-C:15-A, shall be subject to any criminal or civil liability, or any professional disciplinary action.

7 Q: WHO WILL ASSUME THE COST FOR THE SEX PARTNER'S MEDICATION?

A: Medication cost may be paid by the person who picks up the prescription or paid by the sex partner's health insurance. The medication should only be billed under the sex partner's name.

8 Q: ALLERGIES TO MEDICATION OR MEDICATION INTERACTIONS?

A: Healthcare providers should provide both the "Guide for Patients" and the "Guide for Sex Partners" along with the antibiotics or antibiotic prescription. This material contains information about allergic reactions, potential side effects, and reasons why a partner should not take the antibiotics but see a healthcare provider instead for evaluation and treatment.

9 Q: HOW SHOULD PHARMACISTS CONDUCT PATIENT RECORD KEEPING FOR EPT?

A: EPT prescriptions should be documented/filled like any other non-controlled substances prescription.

10 Q: WHAT ARE THE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR PATIENTS PROVIDED WITH EPT?

A: Each patient provided with antibiotics or a prescription for EPT in accordance with State of New Hampshire Public Health Law RSA 141-C:15-A, should be referred to the EPT Guide for Patients available at:
https://bit.ly/STI_Resources_Healthcare_Providers

https://bit.ly/STI_Resources_Healthcare_Providers | https://bit.ly/NH_PHED
https://bit.ly/CDC_EPT | https://bit.ly/STI_Treatment_Guidelines

29 Hazen Dr. | Concord, NH 03301 | 603-271-4496 | PHED@dhhs.nh.gov

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