

## What is Expedited Partner Therapy?

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is the practice of treating the sex partners of patients diagnosed with **chlamydia** or **gonorrhea** by providing prescriptions or medications to the patient to take to his/her partner without the health care provider examining the partner. Because of EPT's effectiveness in reducing reinfection rates, CDC has recommended its use since 2006 among heterosexual partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea when it is unlikely the partners will seek timely evaluation and treatment. EPT is an additional strategy for partner treatment and does not replace other strategies, such as standard patient referral or provider-assisted referral (when available).

## Use of EPT for the Treatment of Gonorrhea

Because the U.S. may soon have cases of gonorrhea that are resistant to the medicines traditionally used to treat it, CDC no longer recommends the routine use of oral medicines for the treatment of gonorrhea. CDC now recommends that combination therapy be used with both an injected drug plus an oral drug. Since EPT is not possible for injections, CDC recommends that providers only consider EPT for heterosexual partners of gonorrhea patients who are unlikely to access timely evaluation and treatment.

Not treating partners is significantly more harmful than using EPT for gonorrhea. As usual, medicine or prescriptions provided as part of EPT should include treatment instructions, appropriate warnings about taking medications, gonorrhea health education and counseling, and a statement advising that partners seek personal medical evaluation. Now, with the new CDC recommendations, instructions for partners should also include a recommendation that the partner receive a test-of-cure approximately one week after finishing their medication. Given that the partner receiving EPT may have little or no access to health care, information about where they can be tested should also be provided.

For more information visit the CDC web site:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/ept/default.htm>

## Which States Allow EPT?

EPT is permissible in 32 states:	EPT is potentially allowable in 11 states:	EPT is prohibited in 7 states:
Alaska Arizona California Colorado Connecticut Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Louisiana Maine Massachusetts Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Nevada New Hampshire New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Washington Wisconsin Wyoming	Alabama Delaware Georgia Hawaii Kansas Maryland Montana Nebraska New Jersey South Dakota Virginia  EPT is potentially allowable in District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.  ✦ <b>Exception:</b> EPT is permissible in Baltimore, Maryland.	Arkansas Florida Kentucky Michigan Ohio Oklahoma West Virginia

## Vermont Statutes

Title 26: Chapter 23: § 1369. Treatment of partner of patient diagnosed with chlamydia infection

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or rule to the contrary, an individual licensed to practice medicine under this chapter or chapter 33 of this title, an individual certified as a physician's assistant under chapter 31 of this title, or an individual licensed to practice nursing under chapter 28 of this title who is authorized to prescribe and dispense prescription drugs and who diagnoses a sexually transmitted chlamydia infection in an individual patient may prescribe and dispense those prescription drugs to the patient's sexual partner or partners for the treatment of chlamydia without an examination of the sexual partner or partners.

(b) A health care professional who prescribes prescription drugs to a patient's sexual partner or partners without an examination pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall include with each such prescription a letter that:

(1) cautions the partner not to take the medication if he or she is allergic to the drug prescribed; and

(2) recommends that the partner visit a health care professional for an evaluation.

(Added 2009, No. 61, § 39.)