

Expedited partner therapy

Fact sheet for pharmacists

What is expedited partner therapy?

Expedited partner therapy (EPT) is when a [healthcare provider prescribes or supplies medication to the sexual partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia \(CT\) or gonorrhea \(GC\) without an examination](#). EPT has been [legal in Utah](#) since 2009, when the Utah State Legislature passed House Bill 17.

Pharmacists play a critical role in the EPT process as patients and their partners rely on pharmacists to dispense medications when they are given a prescription by their provider. Pharmacists can aid in the treatment process by providing information about medications, allergies, and explain the importance of completing all prescribed treatment.

Key points

Providers can write a prescription for their patient's sexual partner(s) with either the partner's name and DOB, or to the partner of (the original patient).

Medications used for partner treatment cannot be billed to the original patient's insurance.

Medication must be paid for by the patient, the partner(s), the facility/clinic, or billed to the partner's insurance.

Patients should be given fact sheets by their provider to pass along to their partner(s) that encourage them to be evaluated by a healthcare provider while also providing information about STDs and the medication they are being offered (including the possibility of allergic reactions). Pharmacists should also ask about allergic reactions at the time of pick-up.

Certain EPT medications can be given to pregnant partners, however, these partners should be referred to prenatal care and screened for syphilis and HIV. Pregnant partners should **NOT** take doxycycline (azithromycin 1g PO can be used as an alternative).

Information to discuss with patients and partners

Explain possible allergic reactions to antibiotics and potential drug interactions.

Inform patients and partners they should not engage in sexual activity for 7 days after the *last* partner's treatment.

Advise partners to be examined by a medical provider for comprehensive STD testing.

Ask women of child bearing age if they are, or possibly could be pregnant, if dispensing doxycycline.

Current EPT recommendations

Gonorrhea

800mg cefixime PO

PLUS doxycycline 100mg BID x 7 days if co-infection with chlamydia is not ruled out

Chlamydia

100mg doxycycline BID x 7 days PO

[CDC EPT guidance](#)

[2021 CDC STI Treatment Guidelines](#)