

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) Helps Reduce Sexually Transmitted Infections

EPT for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in West Virginia

What is EPT?

- Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is the practice of providing antibiotic therapy to the sex partners of persons diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) without an intervening medical evaluation.
- EPT is not intended to replace traditional partner notification and management. However, it can be a valuable option for reaching partners who are unlikely or unable to seek medical care. The gold standard for partner management remains direct clinical assessment and treatment.
- In West Virginia, EPT can be provided through the direct provision of medications or by prescribing antibiotic therapy for chlamydia or gonorrhea. EPT is not mandatory, but is permissible for certain health care providers in West Virginia.

Who can provide EPT in WV?

The following health care professionals can provide EPT as defined in West Virginia code:

- An allopathic physician licensed under §30-3-14
- An osteopathic physician licensed under §30-3-14
- A physician assistant licensed under §30-3E-3
- An advanced practice registered nurse authorized with prescriptive authority under §30-7-15a
- A licensed pharmacist as defined in §30-5-14

CDC EPT Treatment Guidelines for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea

EPT Regimen for Treatment of CHLAMYDIA

Azithromycin: 1 gram orally in a single dose
OR Doxycycline: 100 mg orally twice daily for 7 days

EPT Regimen for Treatment of Uncomplicated GONOCOCCAL Infections of Cervix, Urethra & Rectum

Cefixime: 800 mg orally in single dose

In concurrence with CT/GC infection:

Cefixime: 800 mg orally in single dose **AND Doxycycline:** 100 mg orally twice daily for 7 days

Education materials: A health care professional who provides EPT should provide counseling for the patient and partner(s), including advice that all women, in particular women with symptoms suggestive of pelvic inflammatory disease, seek immediate medical attention. The healthcare professional will also provide educational materials to be given by the patient to his or her sexual partner. Education regarding medications given for EPT should be discussed to prevent medication interactions and reduce the risk of allergic reactions.