Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Providers

When should EPT be offered to a patient for exposed partners?

EPT should be offered to patients with a **laboratory** or **clinical diagnosis** of chlamydia or gonorrhea. EPT should be offered to patients with partners that are unlikely or unable to access timely evaluation and treatment. The clinician does not need to examine the partner(s) before dispensing EPT medications or a written prescription.

When should EPT not be offered to a patient for exposed partners?

EPT should not be used in cases of suspected child abuse or sexual assault, in situations where a patient's safety is in question, for partners with known allergies to antibiotics, and/or in patients who are co-infected with STIs other than chlamydia or gonorrhea (for example HIV or syphilis).

Is there a limit to the amount of EPT prescriptions and/or medication packets that an infected patient can receive for their partners?

In Michigan, there is no limit on how many partners can be provided treatment via EPT. Individual prescriptions are given for each partner. The best candidates for EPT are the sex partners of infected clients within the 60 days prior to treatment, as they are at highest risk for infection. If the last sexual encounter was more than 60 days prior, the most recent sexual partner should be treated.

Can I dispense or prescribe EPT to patients with a clinical diagnosis of gonorrhea and/or chlamydia in the absence of a laboratory confirmation?

Yes. For symptomatic patients receiving syndromic STI treatment, EPT is permissible for the management of sexual partners.

What are the provisions for EPT under the newest 2023 electronic prescribing guidelines (MCL 333. 17754a)?

Under MCL 333.17754a, there are several exemptions to the law including provisions for EPT. EPT is exempt from electronic prescribing and should continue to be offered via written prescription or medication packets.

Do the general dispensing requirements from the Public Health Code apply when dispensing EPT prescription medications (e.g., drug control licenses, container labeling, documenting, etc.)?

Yes, with slight exceptions. Generally, all of the dispensing requirements apply for EPT including the drug control license requirements and most packaging requirements. EPT prescribers must also comply with all label requirements under MCL333.17745 (7). Exceptions to the law to facilitate the use of EPT include: 1) the dispensing prescriber may dispense prescription drugs to someone who is not their patient. (MCL 333.17745 (2)), and 2) the medication packaging does not have to include "the patient's name and record number." The prescriber should dispense the drug in the name of the partner if known, or "Expedited Partner Therapy" if unknown. (MCL 333.5110(3)(a)).

What is the liability for providers and pharmacists in providing EPT?

Any health professional that provides EPT is not liable for damages in a civil action or subject to administrative action for personal injury, death, or other consequences arising from or related in any way to the provision of EPT. It does not apply if the action of the health professional in providing expedited partner therapy is gross negligence.

FAQ Reminders

- It is not recommended that providers electronically send prescriptions for EPT because the prescription will be sent in the name of the patient and not the partner. The best way to guarantee that the partner will receive EPT is to either dispense the medication in an all-inclusive medication packet or provide a written prescription for the patient to deliver to the partner(s).
- If the partner's name and DOB are unknown, the script can be made out to "Expedited Partner Therapy" as the name and use January 1st of the current year as the DOB.
- Within the EPT treatment recommendations, there are medication substitutions that should be utilized if and when the partner is pregnant, or is unlikely to adhere to the 7-day treatment regimen. Please see the State of Michigan Guidelines for the Provision of Expedited Partner Therapy for Select Sexually Transmitted Infections for more information and the most up to date EPT treatment regimens.

For additional questions or inquiries regarding EPT, please visit Michigan.gov/EPT, or contact the Bureau of HIV and STI Programs at 517-241-0855.

MDHHS Michigan Department of Health & Human Services | Bureau of HIV and STI Programs

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