

**Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) for the Treatment of Chlamydia
and Gonorrhea:
Frequently Asked Questions for Medical Professionals**



1. Can I prescribe medication for EPT without a name on the prescription?

The partner's name must be on the prescription in order for it to be filled at a pharmacy.

2. Can I prescribe medication for EPT with the patient and partners' name on the same prescription?

Two separate prescriptions should be written to avoid confusion regarding medication dispensing, medication counseling, and insurance coverage.

3. Who will assume the cost for the partner's medication?

Medication costs will have to be paid for by the person who picks up the prescription. Some medical offices may choose to dispense medications to both patients and partners at no cost.

4. Who assumes risk for adverse events associated with the medication prescribed?

Medical providers assume liability for all medications dispensed or prescribed. Expedited Partner Therapy is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and was endorsed by the American Bar Association in August 2008. No adverse events and/or life threatening allergic reactions to these medications when dispensed as EPT have been reported to date.

5. If a partner is allergic to azithromycin or cefixime what are the alternatives?

*The protocol for EPT is azithromycin for chlamydia and cefixime **plus** azithromycin for gonorrhea. If the partner is known to be allergic to these medications, EPT is not appropriate in this case and the partner should be referred to a physician.*

6. What if the partner has medication allergies that the index patient is unaware of?

Medical providers assume liability for all medications dispensed or prescribed. No adverse events and/or life threatening allergic reactions to these medications when dispensed as EPT have been reported to date. Patient and partner information sheets should be included along with the medication or prescription for the partner. These sheets contain information on the need to consider medication interactions and allergic reactions. Advise your patient to read this and to have his/her partner read this before taking the medication. Patients and their partners should call the clinic or pharmacy with any questions.

7. What if the partner is taking a medication that interacts with EPT prescribed antibiotics but the patient is unaware of this?

Patient and partner information sheets should be included along with the medication or prescription for the partner. These sheets contain information about the need to consider medication interactions and allergic reactions. Advise your patient to read this and to have his/her partner read this before taking the medication. Patients and their partners should call the clinic or pharmacy with any questions.

8. Can the pharmacy bill the partner's medication under the patient's insurance?

No. Billing the partner's prescription under the patient's name could be considered fraudulent.

9. Can I just write my patient's prescription with one extra refill for their partner? Or, write my patient for twice as many pills?

This practice is not supported or encouraged by the health department and may also be considered fraudulent for insurance billing purposes.

10. Are registered nurse practitioners allowed to provide EPT for their patients?

Yes, Registered nurse practitioners in Arizona are allowed to provide EPT as determined by the Arizona Board of Nursing detailed in a substantive policy statement dated January 25, 2008.

For more information visit:

The CDC website on Expedited Partner Therapy:
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/Treatment/EPTFinalReport2006.pdf>

The Arizona Department of Health Services STD website:
<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/std/index.htm>

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