

# Expedited Partner Therapy Louisiana Experience

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# Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

- Practice of treating sex partner(s) of persons with sexually transmitted diseases (STD), specifically, Chlamydia or Gonorrhea without the partner(s) receiving medical evaluation from a health care provider
- Clinically indicated for the following patients-
  - Patients with a clinical diagnosis of sexually transmitted Chlamydia and/or Gonorrhea, confirmed by a positive lab test; or
  - Without lab confirmation when the provider has a high clinical suspicion for Chlamydia and/or Gonorrhea based on symptoms and is concerned about loss to follow-up; and
  - The patient and clinician determine that it is difficult for the exposed partner(s) to receive a medical evaluation and/or treatment

- EPT is not recommended for the following partners, but full medical evaluation from a health care provider should be sought:
  - If pregnant
  - If at risk for severe medication allergies
  - Men who have sex with men (MSM)
  - If co-infected with STDs not covered by EPT
  - If there is a situation, in which the patient's safety is in doubt

## EPT in Louisiana

- The 2008 Louisiana legislature passed a law that authorizes Expedited Partner Therapy – This law authorized the physician, advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant to issue a prescription to the partner(s) of a Gonorrhea and/or Chlamydia patient in the absence of a physical examination or other physician-patient relationship
- The 2008 legislation required the Louisiana Dept. of Health & Hospitals to promulgate the rules necessary to implement EPT and those rules became final on February 20, 2009

# EPT procedures in Louisiana

- Patients diagnosed with Chlamydia and/or Gonorrhea should be given the choice of contacting their sexual partner(s) and providing them with a referral to a public health clinic or to their own provider, or if they prefer, to be provided with a prescription to take to their partner(s).
- All sex partners in the **60 days prior to diagnosis** should be considered at risk for infection and should be treated.
- Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) should discuss the option of using EPT with clinicians for STD clients they think are appropriate candidates.
- The prescribing clinician, having decided to use EPT, should provide the index patient with one or more prescriptions for the partner(s) with the name of each partner written on a separate prescription blank. If the index patient is not able or willing to provide the partner(s) name(s), then up to two (2) blank prescription(s) may be written without a patient's name. The index patient must be informed that the pharmacist filling the prescription(s) at a drug store may insist on having the name of the person for whom the medicine is intended written on the prescription blank. **Stock supply medication may not be utilized to treat sex partners by EPT.**

# EPT procedures in Louisiana (Contd.)

- An appropriate EPT informational sheet must accompany each prescription provided about the STD being treated, and a package of condoms for each partner given EPT.
- Prescriptions for EPT should be provided for all sexual partners within two months prior to diagnosis or , if there were no partners in the past two months, the most recent sexual partner. **Prescriptions should not be provided to treat sexual partners of those partners being given EPT.** Other partners of a partner given EPT should be encouraged to seek medical evaluation.
- There is no need to initiate a medical record for sex partners not present.
- Re-testing and Test of Cure – It is recommended that partners be urged to see their own physician or other health care provider or to come to the public health clinic about a week after taking the medication to be evaluated for completeness of treatment.

- In 2010, A total of 92 prescriptions were given to the partners as part of EPT at parish health units.

# Challenges with EPT

- Lack of nurse practitioners or physicians at parish health units to provide prescriptions for the partners
- No data available from private providers on use of EPT

- In January 2010, Letters were sent to private providers to encourage using EPT
- A survey questionnaire has been developed and will be sent to private providers about use of EPT including number of prescriptions given to partners