

**Expedited Partner Therapy
(EPT) Guidance**

Wyoming Department of
Health

Communicable Disease Unit
Prevention Program

Additional information and copies may be obtained from:

Wyoming Department of Health
Communicable Disease Unit
Prevention Program Manager
6101 Yellowstone Road, Suite 510
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-3562

**These recommendations replace all previous guidance documents.*

Introduction

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is the practice of treating the sex partners of persons with sexually transmitted diseases (STD) without an intervening clinical assessment by a health care provider. EPT is usually delivered by the index patient to their partner. Ideally, all sex partners would be tested and treated by a healthcare provider in a clinical setting to reduce the risk of re-infection and complications. EPT provides a tool to treat partners who are unable or unwilling to access healthcare themselves. EPT is accomplished by either providing a prescription for antibiotics or the appropriate antibiotic(s) along with allergy and educational information about the medication.

Recommendations

Providers can offer heterosexual patients STD medication to give their sex partners if the provider cannot otherwise assure the partners' treatment.

1. All patients who may be a candidate for distribution of EPT medications must have a diagnosed STD either confirmed by:
 - a. gram stain (gonorrhea)
 - b. culture or nucleic acid amplification test confirmed gonorrhea or chlamydial infection
2. If possible, all partners should be evaluated and tested by a healthcare provider. EPT should only be given when partners will likely not access healthcare services. Providers should make every effort to explain to patients the importance of partner testing and the possible side effects of medications.
3. Men who have sex with men (MSM) should *not* be provided partner packs for their partners. MSM are at higher risk for other STDs and it is important they are evaluated and tested by a healthcare provider (especially for HIV).
4. Documentation of all EPT provided should be recorded in the patient's medical record and in PRISM. Any partner information received should also be documented in PRISM. Please see <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/communicable-disease-unit/di/> for more information about reportable diseases.

Dispensing Expedited Partner Therapy:

1. All partner provided EPT should be dispensed in the pre-packaged partner packs provided to clinics by the CDU. Separate partner packs are supplied for gonorrhea and chlamydia infection. Both packs include information about STDs, symptoms, and allergies. Condoms, lube, and information about testing locations are also included.

- a. Chlamydia partner packs include 1g azithromycin.
 - b. Gonorrhea partner packs include 400mg cefixime and 1g azithromycin.
2. Distribution of all EPT packs should be documented in the EPT reporting logs stored on Google Drives.

DIS Investigations

Disease intervention specialists follow-up with every individual diagnosed with gonorrhea and those with chlamydia who need additional counseling. Documenting all EPT, disclosed partners, and risks in PRISM helps facilitate these follow-ups and ensures that all potentially infected partners can get tested and treated. If an individual discloses that they are unable to contact a partner, please bring to the attention of the DIS so those partners can be contacted.

Ordering Partner Packs

Partner packs are ordered directly from the CDU and shipped directly to the requesting facility. The EPT Order form is located on the CDU website at <https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/EPT-Order-Form.pdf>. Orders can be emailed to cdusupplies@wyo.gov or faxed to 307-777-5279.

All EPT partner packs need to be kept separate from 340B medications if the facility participates in the 340B program. These medications needs to be labeled as EPT. **340B medications cannot be used for EPT.**

Reporting

All partner packs distributed must be documented in the EPT logs which are stored on Google drives. The Google drive folders are shared with nurse managers in each county (and they can share those folders with any nurse who will be reporting). Monthly reporting should be completed by the 7th day of the month for the previous month. Non-compliance with reporting requirements may result in delay or denial of medication orders.

Legal Implications

EPT was approved by the Wyoming Board of Pharmacy in December 2006, the Wyoming Board of Medicine in June 2005, and by the Wyoming Board of Nursing in June 2007.

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