



EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY (EPT) for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Trichomoniasis

FACT SHEET FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN MARYLAND

EPT in Maryland: EPT is the voluntary practice of treating sex partners of patients with certain sexually transmitted infections without an intervening medical exam, if they are unable or unlikely to seek timely care. Maryland law authorizes physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, and certain registered nurses in local health departments to prescribe or dispense EPT for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and trichomoniasis within their scopes of practice. Most states authorize the use of EPT. EPT is endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and numerous national and Maryland state medical associations. Md. Code Ann., Health General §18–214.1.

Diagnostic Criteria: Patients with clinical or laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of chlamydia, gonorrhea or trichomoniasis.

Delivery of EPT: Patients deliver prescriptions or medications along with informational materials to partners.

Recommended EPT Treatment Regimens for Partners:

Gonorrhea*, with or without Chlamydia

Dual therapy:

⊕ 400 mg cefixime orally in a single dose

AND

⊕ 1 gram azithromycin (250 mg tablets x 4) orally in a single dose

Chlamydia

⊕ 1 gram azithromycin (250 mg tablets x 4) orally in a single dose

Trichomoniasis

⊕ 2 grams metronidazole (500 mg tablets x 4) orally in a single dose

***Gonorrhea Treatment:** The current CDC-recommended regimen for *in-office* gonorrhea treatment is dual therapy: 250 mg IM ceftriaxone in a single dose PLUS 1 gram azithromycin orally in a single dose. However, oral treatment *still* should be considered for EPT since not treating partners is significantly more dangerous.

Educational Materials for Patients and Partners: The following information must accompany prescriptions or medication given to patients for themselves, and for each partner - infection information; medication instructions; encouragement to seek a medical evaluation; and adverse allergic reaction warning. Patient and partner materials are available for downloading: <http://tinyurl.com/EPTMaryland>

Patient Counseling: Abstinence until 7 days after patient and partner treatment.

Patient Re-Testing: Recommended 3 months after treatment to check for possible reinfection.

Adverse Reactions: To report adverse reactions, contact the Center for STI Prevention at the Maryland Department of Health by phone: (410) 767-6900, or email: mdh.sticlinicalconsult@maryland.gov.

Provider Reporting: Maryland providers are required by law to report to the state or local health department cases of laboratory-confirmed chlamydia and gonorrhea; treatment provided; and any EPT prescribed and/or dispensed for patients' partners. The current Maryland Confidential Morbidity Report Form, a fillable PDF, is available at: <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/pages/reportable-diseases.aspx>.

