



EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY (EPT) FOR CHLAMYDIA AND GONORRHEA

FACT SHEET FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN MARYLAND

EPT in Maryland: EPT for chlamydia and gonorrhea became legally permissible on June 1, 2015. The law authorizes physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, and certain registered nurses in local health departments to prescribe or dispense EPT, within their respective scopes of practice.

Diagnostic criteria: Clinical or laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of chlamydia or gonorrhea.

Most appropriate partners: Heterosexual sex partners who are unable or unlikely to obtain a timely medical evaluation.

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

Recommended EPT treatment regimens for partners:

CHLAMYDIA

- ⊕ 1 gram azithromycin orally in a single dose

GONORRHEA*, WITH OR WITHOUT CHLAMYDIA

Dual therapy:

- ⊕ 400 mg cefixime (Suprax®) **AND**
- ⊕ 1 gram azithromycin orally in a single dose

***EPT for Gonorrhea:** The Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) no longer recommends the routine use of orally-administered cefixime for treating gonorrhea. However, oral treatment should still be considered for EPT since not treating partners is significantly more dangerous. The current recommended regimen for in-office treatment of gonorrhea is dual treatment with 250 mg IM ceftriaxone in a single dose PLUS 1 gram azithromycin orally in a single dose.

Informational materials for each partner:

The following information must accompany prescriptions or medication given to patients for each partner: medication instructions; encouragement to seek a medical evaluation; adverse drug or allergic reaction warning; and advice to abstain from sexual activity as required during treatment. Patient and partner materials are available here for downloading: <http://tinyurl.com/EPTMaryland>.

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

Patient re-testing: Recommended for chlamydia and gonorrhea 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 and Mental Hygiene by email: dhmh.sticlinicalconsult@maryland.gov, or by phone: (410) 767-6900.

Reporting: Maryland providers are required to report cases of laboratory-confirmed chlamydia and gonorrhea to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. To report cases, and the number of EPT prescriptions and/or medications given to the patient for each partner, complete the revised Maryland Confidential Morbidity Report Form, a fillable PDF, available at: <http://tiny.cc/frsb8x>.

