

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

Questions & Answers for Pharmacists

What is Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)?

EPT is the clinical practice of treating the sex partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea by providing prescriptions or medications to the patient to take to his/her partner without the health care provider first examining the partner.

Is EPT legal in West Virginia?

Yes. A State EPT law was passed during the regular session of the 2016 West Virginia Legislature.

What are the benefits of EPT?

Multiple studies have demonstrated that EPT decreases the rates of reinfection from partners in the treatment of gonorrhea and chlamydia. EPT is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other national physician organizations.

Is EPT a mandatory requirement for healthcare providers or pharmacists?

No. EPT is an option to providers and pharmacists, and it is not mandatory to provide EPT. A pharmacist or pharmacy is not subject to civil or professional liability for choosing not to fill a prescription.

Is there a liability risk to pharmacists who provide EPT?

No. Providers and pharmacists are not subject to civil or professional liability in connection with the provision of EPT, counseling and materials, except in the case of gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct.

If the patient is given a prescription to take to his/her partner(s), does the original patient's insurance cover the cost of that medication to be given to the partner?

No. The patient has the option to pay for the prescription, however it cannot be charged to the original patient's insurance if it will be used by another person, unless that partner is on the patient's medical insurance plan.