



Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

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Ohio physicians, advance practice registered nurses, and physician assistants are authorized to prescribe or personally furnish a drug for a sexual partner of a patient diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea, or trichomoniasis, without examining the sexual partner, if all of the following conditions are met:

- 1) The intended recipient is a sexual partner of the prescriber's patient;
- 2) The patient has been diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea, or trichomoniasis; and
- 3) The patient reports to the prescriber that the sexual partner is unable or unlikely to be evaluated or treated by a health professional.

Prescriptions can be made in accordance with this law for **no more than two sexual partners of the patient**. Pharmacists will also be able to dispense a drug pursuant to a prescription issued in accordance with the law.

For questions about this law, please review the following frequently asked questions. If you need additional information, the most expedient way to have your questions answered will be to e-mail the Board office by visiting: <http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/contact.aspx>.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1) Is the prescriber required to include the sexual partner's name and address in the prescription?

Yes, unless the prescriber is unable to obtain the partner's name and address. In that case, the prescription must instead include the patient's name and address, along with the words "expedited partner therapy" or the letters "EPT." (*Note: A separate prescription should be issued for the patient's partner – see question #5).*

Q2) What are other requirements of the prescriber?

For each drug prescribed or personally furnished, the prescriber must do all the following:

1. Provide the patient with information concerning the drug for the purpose of sharing the information with the sexual partner, including directions for the drug's use and any side effects, adverse reactions, or known contraindications associated with it;
2. Recommend to the patient that the sexual partner seek treatment from a health professional; and
3. Document all the following in the patient's record:
 - a) The name of the drug prescribed or furnished and its dosage;
 - b) That information concerning the drug was provided to the patient for the purpose of sharing the information with the sexual partner; and
 - c) If known, any adverse reactions the sexual partner experiences from treatment with the drug.

Q3) Can a prescriber contact the sexual partner the prescription is meant for?

The law authorizes a prescriber who prescribes or personally furnishes a drug in accordance with its provisions to contact the sexual partner for whom the drug is intended. If the prescriber contacts the partner, the prescriber must:

1. Inform the sexual partner that he or she may have been exposed to chlamydia, gonorrhea, or trichomoniasis;
2. Encourage the sexual partner to seek treatment from a health professional;

3. Explain the treatment options available to the partner, including treatment with a prescription drug, directions for use of the drug, and any side effects, adverse reactions, or known contraindications associated with it; and
4. Document in the patient's record that the prescriber contacted the sexual partner.

If the prescriber does not contact the partner, the prescriber must document that fact in the patient's record.

Q4) Are there liability protections for prescribing, dispensing or personally furnishing expedited partner therapy?

The act grants immunity from civil liability, criminal prosecution, or professional discipline to a prescriber or pharmacist acting in good faith and in accordance with the act.

Q5) As a prescriber, am I required to issue separate prescriptions for the patient and the partner (or partners)?

Yes. A separate prescription must include the sexual partner's name and address, if known. However, if the prescriber is unable to obtain the partner's name and address, the prescription must instead include the patient's name and address, along with the words "expedited partner therapy" or the letters "EPT." This also applies to electronic prescriptions.