

# HEALTH ADVISORY



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



**TO:** Physicians and other Health Care Providers

**Please distribute a copy of this information to each provider in your organization.**

Questions regarding this information may be directed to the office of:

**Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH**

Health Officer

Clark County Public Health, (360) 397-8412

**Teresa Everson, MD, MPH, CPH**

Deputy Health Officer

Clark County Public Health, (360) 397-8412

## Alert categories:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

**HEALTH  
ADVISORY**

March 30, 2018

**Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)  
Guidance for Clark County**



***Background***

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In the prior 5 years, rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea in Clark County have increased by 19% and 69%, respectively. Expedited partner therapy (EPT) is the clinical practice of prescribing treatment for the sex partners of individuals diagnosed with chlamydia and/or gonorrhea without requiring a clinical examination. EPT has been shown to reduce reinfection rates and increase the number of partners treated, thereby reducing rates of disease in the community.

EPT is permissible and free in Washington State. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends EPT for partner management. To date, there have been no reports of major adverse reactions to EPT medications in trials or surveillance in Washington State.

***Guidance***

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- Screen all sexually active women under 25 years of age and older women at increased risk for gonorrhea and chlamydia annually.
- Screen all pregnant women under 25 years of age and older pregnant women at increased risk for gonorrhea and chlamydia at their first prenatal visit.
- Offer EPT for the sex partners of heterosexual patients diagnosed with uncomplicated chlamydia and/or gonorrhea. Although every effort should be made to encourage sex partners to be seen by a clinical provider, in instances where care is uncertain or will be delayed, EPT should be prescribed.
- EPT is only recommended for sex partners of lab confirmed heterosexual cases. **EPT is not intended for use in men who have sex with men.**

***Resources***

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Washington State Department of Health provides free EPT to sex partners of heterosexual persons diagnosed with chlamydia and/or gonorrhea. Each packet includes Azithromycin 1 gm (plus Cefixime 400 mg for gonorrhea packets), allergy warning (English and Spanish), condoms, and information about chlamydia and/or gonorrhea. An EPT prescription form and an EPT Flyer are included below and can be found on the Clark County EPT [website](#).

**Video:** [How to Prescribe EPT](#)    **Contact:** [Clark County STD Program](#) 360-397-8082  
**CDC 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines:** <https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/default.htm>

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To subscribe or unsubscribe from this listserv, email: [Tippy.Hartford@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Tippy.Hartford@clark.wa.gov).



**Washington State STD Expedited Partner Treatment Project  
Fax Prescription for STD Treatment Packs**

**TO:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Pharmacy:</b> <u>Check (J) Pharmacy in Table Below</u>  | <b>Date:</b> _____  |
| <b>Rx: Patient Name:</b> _____<br>(intended recipient)   | <b>DOB:</b> _____   |
| <b>Person Picking up Meds:</b> _____   | <b>DOB:</b> _____   |
| <b>Rx: Dispense medications as checked below at no charge to patient.<br/>Medications to be dispensed without childproof safety cap.</b>         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public Health Pack 1:</b> Azithromycin, 1 gram (Zithromax) PO once stat  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No Known adverse drug reactions</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public Health Pack 2:</b> Cefixime 400 mg (Suprax) once PO stat<br>and Azithromycin, 1 gram (Zithromax) PO once stat | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Unknown adverse drug reactions</b>  |
| _____<br><b>Provider Signature</b> (Dispense as Written)   | _____<br><b>Provider Signature</b> (Substitutions Permitted)    |

| <b>Indicate (J) Pharmacy To Dispense Medications – Participating Pharmacies in Clark County</b> |                                   |                     |  |              |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>X</b>  | <b>Pharmacy Name</b>              | <b>Fax #</b>        | <b>Address</b>                               | <b>Phone</b> |
|   | Fred Meyer #614                   | <b>360-666-5127</b> | 401 NW 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave<br>Battle Ground | 360-666-5133 |
|   | Fred Meyer #236 (Orchards)        | <b>360-896-3527</b> | 7411 NE 117 <sup>th</sup> Ave<br>Vancouver   | 360-896-3533 |
|   | Fred Meyer #93 (Fisher's Landing) | <b>360-260-3327</b> | 16600 SE Mc Gillvray Blvd<br>Vancouver       | 360-260-3333 |
|   | Fred Meyer #140 (Hazel Dell)      | <b>360-699-8149</b> | 7700 Highway 99<br>Vancouver                 | 360-699-8133 |
|   | Safeway #1287                     | <b>360-834-6735</b> | 800 NE 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>Camas              | 360-834-6550 |

**FROM:**

| <b>Prescribing Provider Contact Information</b> |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Name:</b> _____                              | <b>Fax:</b> _____   |
| <b>Address:</b> _____                           | <b>Phone:</b> _____ |



# Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) Flyer

Information for Healthcare Providers in Clark County, WA

EPT for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea - **FREE** of Charge in Washington State

## What is EPT?

- EPT is the practice of providing medication to the sex partners of persons diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease without an intervening medical evaluation.
- EPT is not intended to replace traditional partner notification and management. It can be a valuable option, though, for reaching partners who are unlikely or unable to seek medical care. The gold standard for partner management remains direct clinical assessment and treatment.
- In Washington State, EPT can be provided through the direct provision of medications or by prescribing antibiotic therapy for chlamydia and/or gonorrhea. EPT is permissible in Washington. EPT is provided free of charge in Washington.

| Who is Eligible for EPT?  | How Can Providers Prescribe FREE EPT?   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heterosexual sex partners of patients diagnosed with gonorrhea and/or chlamydia, exposed in the 60 days prior to the original patient's diagnosis.</li> <li>• Men who have sex with men are NOT eligible for EPT.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch a "How to Prescribe EPT" Video:<br/><a href="https://youtu.be/2e_jSRIqHFk">https://youtu.be/2e_jSRIqHFk</a></li> <li>• Obtain name and date of birth for all identified partners.</li> <li>• Complete the EPT Prescription Form found at the following link:<br/><a href="https://www.clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/dept/files/public-health/CD/EPT%20Form.pdf">https://www.clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/dept/files/public-health/CD/EPT%20Form.pdf</a></li> <li>• Fax form(s) to one of the 5 participating pharmacies in Clark County.</li> </ul> |

For the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/>

For more information on Expedited Partner Therapy, visit the Clark County Public Health EPT webpage:

<https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/expedited-partner-therapy-ept>