

Frequently Asked Questions by Pharmacists

1. **What is EPT?** Expedited Partner Therapy, or EPT, is a general term for the practice of treating the sex partner(s) of patients diagnosed with Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) without an intervening medical evaluation of the partner(s).
2. **What changes were made in the new law?** 2009 Wisconsin Act 280 went into effect on May 26, 2010. The new law: 1) explicitly allows physicians, physician assistants, and certified nurse prescribers to furnish or prescribe medication for EPT and pharmacists to dispense medication for EPT; 2) limits civil liability for medical providers and pharmacists as long as EPT is provided in accordance with the Act; 3) allows the prescription to be written in the partner's name (preferred) or with "Expedited Partner Therapy" or "EPT" in place of a name when the patient does not know or is unwilling to give the partner's name; and 4) requires written materials be developed by the Department of Health Services (DHS) and be distributed to the patient by the medical provider, for use by the partner(s) receiving EPT.
3. **Who is eligible/ineligible for EPT?** The Act specifies that EPT can only be used for partners of patients infected with *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* or trichomoniasis infections.
4. **Is there a limit to the number of partners that can receive EPT for a given patient?** No. EPT allows for the treatment of all of a patient's partners. Treatment of all affected partners will reduce the risk of transmission and re-infection.
5. **Is EPT limited to specific medications?** Only Antimicrobial drugs used to treat *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* or trichomoniasis can be prescribed using EPT. The Act specifically excludes all controlled substances.
6. **How is EPT delivered to the partner(s)?** Medication may be dispensed to the patient by the medical provider to take to his/her partner(s), or separate prescriptions may be written for the patient and his/her partner(s).
7. **Is a pharmacist liable if an adverse event occurs?** The Act exempts medical prescribers and pharmacists from civil liability for injury to, or death of, the sexual partner unless an act or omission of the provider involves reckless, wanton, or intentional misconduct.
8. **Who will pay for the partner's medication?** The patient's insurance **cannot** be billed for the partner's medication (unless the partner is covered on the patient's insurance and the partner information is known). There is currently no state funding to pay for EPT medication. The patient may elect to pay the full cost of the medication for the partner(s).
9. **Are pharmacists required to participate?** The Act does not require pharmacists to participate.

10. **Are pharmacists required to give information regarding STDs when consulting a person receiving EPT?** The Act requires that the medical provider provide written information to the patient for use by the partner(s) that has information on STDs, their treatment and the risk of drug allergies. The Act also requires that a pharmacist provide consultation in accordance with the rules promulgated by the Pharmacy Examining Board, and also ask whether the partner is allergic to the prescribed medication and advise discontinuing the medication if the person has a known allergy or develops signs of an allergic reaction after taking the medication.

11. **How do pharmacists fill prescriptions for EPT?** Pharmacists must meet all of the requirements of the Pharmacy Examining Board for filling prescriptions. Prescriptions must also be labeled according to Wis Stat § 450.11(4) which includes the full name of the patient if known or the words Expedited Partner Therapy or EPT. Consultation is required on each prescription per Phar 7.01(1)(e). The patient may act as the agent of the partner(s) for purposes of fulfilling the consultation requirement.

12. **How do pharmacists label a prescription without the partner's full name?** Pharmacies that choose to dispense EPT prescriptions will likely need to establish a profile for a patient named Expedited Partner Therapy or EPT.

13. **Where can I find more information about EPT?**
 - The Wisconsin EPT Act, Frequently Asked Questions documents, provider guidance, and patient information sheets will be available at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/STD/EPT/EPT.htm>.
 - Questions about EPT in Wisconsin can be directed to the Wisconsin Department of Health STD Section at (608) 266-7365.
 - EPT information and resources from the CDC are available at www.cdc.gov/std/ept.