Expedited Partner Therapy Sample Workflows

Patient Diagnosed with an STI (Index Patient)

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is the clinical practice of treating sex partners of patients diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection (STI) without the healthcare provider first examining the partner. EPT is effective, safe, and acceptable to patients and their partners, and has been allowable in California since 2001 (California Health & Safety Code § 120582).¹ EPT is commonly offered for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and trichomoniasis. The following workflows are recommendations for clinical staff to use as a resource when offering EPT.

Sample Workflow - Patient Diagnosed with an STI (Index Patient) Patient Treatment and Index Patient Treatment **Key Counseling Messages** Partner Management "Abstain from sexual activity to prevent If the medication is available in the clinic, During screening visit, confirm patient's reinfection OR use a condom or barrier method treat the patient using the current CDC preferred confidential contact information in recommended treatment for STIs. for at least 7 days after both you and all electronic health record. partner(s) have been treated." Patient receives information about why it is important that their partner is also treated. "Return to the clinic for retesting 1-3 months Patient contact is initiated through calling the patient ideally within 72 hours of after treatment to make sure you were not receiving lab result. reinfected." If the partner is unable to come in and the patient is interested in EPT, the patient receives information about EPT see EPT Workflow(s). Patient returns to the clinic and is informed of Ask "How likely do you think your partner(s) will their STI results. come to the clinic to get tested and treated?" Schedule index patient's follow-up appointment 3 months after treatment date. Document key STI counseling messages Patient education and treatment with current If patient is pregnant or has pharyngeal provided to the patient in their medical chart. CDC recommended treatment for STIs. gonorrhea, schedule follow up in 3-4 weeks.

Sample Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) Workflow

Clinic Dispensing EPT after Index Patient Treatment workflow is completed

EPT Counseling If there are any concerns about the patient's safety (IPV/DV) or any other risk, then EPT is not right for the patient. Consider sample language such as: "How do you think your partner(s) will react when you tell them about test results and treatment? Ask the patient if they know whether their partner(s) is/are allergic to EPT medications. If YES, EPT may not be an appropriate option for them. Ask the patient if their partner(s) may be pregnant. If so, every effort should be made for the pregnant partner to receive appropriate care. EPT should be used as last resort. Emphasize that a test-of-cure for chlamydia/gonorrhea should be performed. See EPT Counseling Guide under resources list for additional counseling questions. Initiate EPT dispensing if the patient has agreed to continue.

Scheduling and **EPT Dispensing** Documentation Initiate Dispensing - upload and dispense EPT Schedule 3-month retest appointment counseling and health education materials for reminder for the index patient. patient and infected partner(s). Educational If patient is pregnant or has pharyngeal resources in various languages are available at: gonorrhea, schedule follow up in 3-4 weeks. orders.essentialaccess.org/resources Clinical or health education staff reviews Clinical staff documents visit and number of EPT materials with patient and documents doses distributed in patient's EHR. messages in the EHR. EPT counseling and health education given. Clinical staff obtains medication and labels Patient discharged with EPT health education patient's name for each partner dose. If more and EPT medications in hand. You may want to than one dose is given to the patient, EPT health consider adding clinic information on health

education materials when available.

to continue.

education materials must be included in each bag/

envelope that contains the STI medication.

Sample Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) Workflow

Prescribing EPT after Index Patient Treatment workflow is completed: Medical, Family PACT and other EPT Rx

EPT Counseling

If there are any concerns about the patient's safety (such as intimate partner or domestic violence) or any other risk, then EPT is not right for the patient.

Consider sample language such as:

"How do you think your partner(s) will react when you tell them about test results and treatment?"

Ask the patient if they know whether their partner(s) is/are allergic to EPT medications. If YES, EPT may not be an appropriate option for them.

Ask the patient if their partner(s) may be pregnant. If so, every effort should be made for the pregnant partner to receive appropriate care. EPT should be used as last resort. Emphasize that a test-of-cure for chlamydia/gonorrhea should be performed.

See EPT Counseling Guide under resources list for additional counseling questions.

Initiate EPT prescription if the patient has agreed to continue.

EPT Prescription

Initiate Prescription – upload and dispense EPT counseling and health education materials for patient and infected partner(s).

Educational resources in various languages are available at:

orders.essentialaccess.org/resources

Clinical or health education staff reviews EPT materials with patient and documents messages in the EHR. EPT counseling and health education given.

Electronic Prescription (eRx)
for MediCal and Family PACT Patients Provide eRx STI medication for the total
number of doses to be dispensed by the
pharmacy under the index patient's name.

Sample for chlamydia positive
with three partners, using the current
2021 STD Treatment guidelines:
Doxycycline 100 mg cap. Sig: Expedited
Partner Therapy (EPT) Patient and each
partner to take 1 caps by mouth BID today.
Dispense #56 Caps. Number of Refills: 0.
See Sample eRx attached

Other EPT written prescriptions (commercial plans, cash pay, etc.) may be written for the medications to treat an individual partner but may not contain the partner's name or their date of birth. California law requires health care providers to write the words "Expedited Partner Therapy" or "EPT" on the prescription.

If more than one prescription is given to the index patient for their partner(s), separate EPT health education materials must be given for the each of the patient's partner(s). Educational resources in a variety of languages are available at:

orders.essentialaccess.org/resources

Scheduling and Documentation

Schedule 3-month retest appointment reminder for the index patient. If patient is pregnant or has pharyngeal gonorrhea, schedule follow up in 3-4 weeks.

Clinical staff documents visit and number of doses prescribed in patient's EHR.

Patient discharged with EPT health education and EPT prescriptions in hand. You may want to consider adding clinic information on health education materials when available.

Sample EPT eRx for Medical and Family PACT Patients

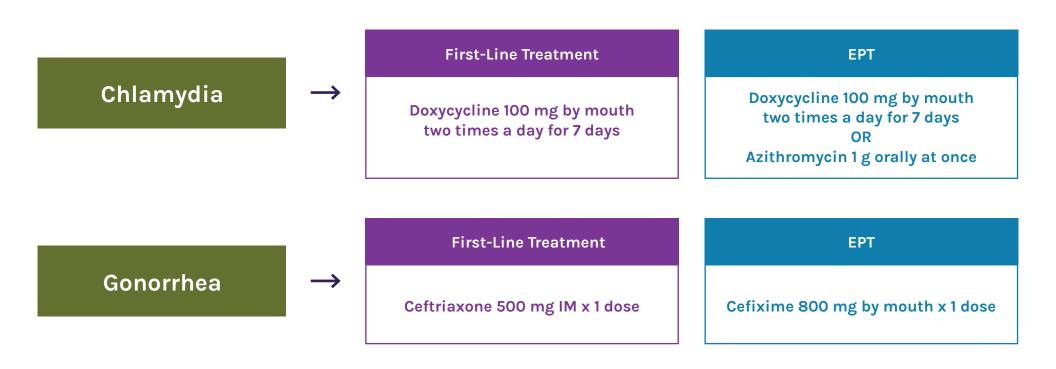
Below is a sample prescription for index patient treatment for chlamydia and EPT three partners. California law requires health care providers to write the words "Expedited Partner Therapy" or "EPT" on the prescription if they do not have the patient's sexual partner(s) names. Prescriptions must be written in the name of the enrolled beneficiary/client [index patient] to be covered by Medi-Cal and/or Family PACT (Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment), even if the sexual partner(s) are also covered by Medi-Cal or Family PACT.⁴ Reimbursement is for client dose and up to five partner doses per dispensing.

| doxycycline hyclate 100 mg capsule | | | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Estimated Patient Cost: | | Show Alternatives/Pricing Cover | | ge Pharmacy | Local Pharm | macy 101 🗸 |
| Edit Sig: take 1 capsule by oral route 2 times every day Remove Sig | | | | | | |
| PI | RN Reason: | | | | | |
| Quantity: 56 | Units: | Capsule Refil | IIs: 0 | Dispense As Writter | n | Accept Cancel |
| Start: 06/01/2025 Stop: 06/01/2025 Duration: Prescribed Elsewhere Source: | | | | | | |
| Non-Clinical | | | | Problem: | | |
| Notes to Pharmacy: | Please dispense in 4 labeled bottles of #14 for index patient and three partners for expedited partner therapy. | | | Chlamydia infection, unspecified. | | |
| Provider: | : Dr. Health | | | | | |
| Location: | Local Clinic | | | | | |



Treatment: First-Line vs. EPT

EPT treatment varies slightly from first line treatment for chlamydia and gonorrhea.



References

1 Legal Status of Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) https://www.cdc.gov/sti/php/ept-legal-status/california.html Status as of January 1, 2022. Accessed May 7, 2025.

2 Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021, Centers for Disease Control https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/STI-Guidelines-2021.pdf

3 How to Prescribe Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) for Sexually Transmitted Infections Accessed May 7, 2025.

Resources

Expedited Partner Therapy: A Counseling Guide for Providers. https://www.essentialaccess.org/sites/default/files/PDPT_Counseling_Guide_Web.pdf Accessed May 7, 2025.

Expedited Partner Therapy FAQs for California Pharmacists. https://www.essentialaccess.org/sites/default/files/EPT-FAQ-California-Pharmacists.pdf Accessed May 7, 2025.

Expedited Partner Therapy Resources https://orders.essentialaccess.org/resources Accessed May 7, 2025.