



April 23, 2020

RE: Interim Gonorrhea Expedited Partner Therapy Recommendations during COVID-19

Dear PDPT Distribution Program Participant,

Thank you for your participation in [Essential Access Health's Chlamydia/Gonorrhea \(CT/GC\) Patient-Delivered Partner Therapy \(PDPT\) Distribution Program](#). We are reaching out to share the interim Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention STD treatment recommendations during COVID-19 for symptomatic patients. The new guidance includes a significant change to treatment recommendations for expedited partner therapy (EPT), including patient-delivered partner therapy (PDPT), for gonorrhea infections.

The attached [document from the California Prevention Training Center](#) summarizes the interim CDC guidance released in April 2020 for scenarios when in-person clinical exams are limited.

For patients diagnosed with gonorrhea or for those who are presumptively treated, the interim recommended treatment for PDPT is now cefixime **800 mg** PO PLUS azithromycin 1 g PO. This differs from the [2015 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines](#) which includes the treatment regimen of cefixime **400 mg** PO PLUS azithromycin 1 g PO.

As the recommended dosage of cefixime has increased to 800 mg, gonorrhea treatment from Essential Access Health's PDPT Distribution Program will now include one bottle of cefixime 800 mg (2 pills per bottle) PLUS one bottle of azithromycin 1 g.

For sites with existing stock of gonorrhea PDPT that includes cefixime 400 mg (1 pill per bottle) PLUS one bottle of azithromycin 1 g, please provide **two bottles of cefixime 400 mg** PLUS one bottle of azithromycin 1 g per dose of gonorrhea PDPT.

Given this dosage adjustment, the availability of gonorrhea treatment from the PDPT Distribution Program may be more limited, however, Essential Access will continue to fill orders based on need as availability allows and encourages sites to continue ordering medication through the [online platform](#). **Please note that medication shipments for orders placed this month may be slightly delayed due to implementing this change.**

If your need exceeds the medication available from this program, sites can consider providing EPT via prescription, which is a newly covered benefit for Medi-Cal and FPACT patients. Sites can also dispense their own EPT medications onsite and bill Medi-Cal or FPACT if it is provided during a family planning related visit. Essential Access is happy to provide support and technical assistance related to billing.

This dosage adjustment is based on interim guidance to be used during COVID-19 and we will keep program participants updated to any future treatment guideline updates.

Please feel free to contact Erin Crowley (ecrowley@essentialaccess.org) or Kala Heekin (kheekin@essentialaccess.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Erin Crowley, MPH, CHES
Senior Manager of STD Prevention Programs
Essential Access Health