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Owner Amber Tincher:  
Physician  
Policy Area Clinical  
Applicability Standing Rock  
Service Unit  
References Outpatient  
Provider  
Orientation

## Standing Rock Service Unit Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

### PURPOSE

- A. To expand opportunities for STI screening and treatment among AI/AN populations.
- B. Expedited Partner Therapy for sexually transmitted diseases will be implemented in the Great Plains Area.
- C. Effective clinical management of patients with treatable sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) requires treatment of the patients' current sex partners to prevent reinfection and curtail further transmission.
- D. CDC has concluded that **EPT is a useful option to facilitate partner management, particularly for treatment of male partners of women with chlamydial infection or gonorrhea.**
- E. Expedited partner therapy (EPT) may be used with both chlamydia and gonorrhea infections in North Dakota as of April 13, 2012. This follows the NDDoH Guidelines (ND Administrative Code, Ch 50-05-01-01: Expedited partner therapy: 54-05-03.1: Authority to Prescribe, 61-04-04-01 (21)).

### DEFINITIONS

- A. STI - Sexually Transmitted Infection
- B. AI/AN - American Indian/Alaskan Native
- C. EPT - Expedited Partner Therapy. This is the clinical practice of treating the sex partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea by providing prescriptions or medications to the patient to take to his/her partner *without the health care provider first examining the partner.*

- D. LIP - Licensed Independent Practitioners
- E. CDC- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- F. PID-Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

## PROCEDURES

- A. LIP will enter medication orders for treatment of patients and their partners.
- B. The pharmacist will review and fill EPT medication orders.
- C. Public health nurses may transport EPT prescription to patients and/or partners to improve outcomes.
- D. IHS statue Part 2, Chapter 4: Manual Appendix E allows health services to be provided to ineligible individuals in certain circumstances (i.e., to prevent spread of disease). All ineligible contacts will be offered STI testing, counseling, treatment and follow-up care as was provided to their eligible partner.
- E. Patients with **chlamydia and/or gonorrhea** should be provided with the medication or a prescription(s) to deliver to their partner(s). Treatment provided to follow CDC guidelines.
- F. In patients where **chlamydia and gonorrhea co-infection** cannot be ruled out the partner should be treated for both infections following CDC treatment guidelines.
  - 1. If adherence with multi-day dosing is a considerable concern, consider azithromycin 1 gm. However, this has lower treatment efficacy among persons with rectal chlamydia.
- G. Medication or prescriptions provided as part of EPT should be accompanied by treatment instructions, appropriate warnings about taking medications (if the partner is pregnant or has an allergy to the medication), general gonorrhea health education and counseling, and a statement advising that partners seek personal medical evaluation, particularly women with symptoms of PID.
- H. Per North Dakota Department of Health EPT policy, if the contact does not have a chart, the medication will be prescribed in the index patient's chart for the partner.

## Resource

- A. CDC's Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines (Updated February 26, 2021). Expedited Partner:
  - 1. Therapy. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/ept/default.htm>
- B. North Dakota Family Planning Program Clinical Protocol Manual:
  - 1. <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/DOH%20Legacy/Family%20Planning/Grantees/Protocols/Reproductive%20Diseases/RD%203%20Expedited%20Partner%20Therapy%20EPT.pdf>
- C. IHS statue Part 2, Chapter 4: Manual Appendix E:
  - 1. <https://www.ihs.gov/ihm/pc/part-2/p2c4-ap-e/>

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## Attachments

[PDPT\\_Partners\\_Chlamydia.pdf](#)

[PDPT\\_Patients\\_ChlamydiaGonorrhea.pdf](#)

## Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Policy and Procedure Leadership Committee	Carletta Aberle: NP, policy and procedure committee lead	09/2023
Medical Staff Committee	Amber Tincher: Physician	08/2023
Policy Owner	Amber Tincher: Physician	08/2023

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## Applicability

Standing Rock Service Unit

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