



County of Erie

CHRIS COLLINS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ANTHONY J. BILLITTIER IV, M.D., FACEP
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

HEALTH ADVISORY # 281

JUNE 1, 2011

Information on Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) for *Chlamydia trachomatis* Infections

Please distribute to Emergency Departments, Infection Control Departments, Employee Health Services, Infectious Disease Departments, Pediatrics, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, Pharmacy, Laboratory Director and all patient care areas.

Summary

- Expedited Partner Therapy has been shown to reduce *Chlamydia trachomatis* (Ct) re-infection, and augments provider options for managing the care of partners of Ct patients.
- EPT for Ct infections was signed into New York State Law in 2009.
- The Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health recently sent a letter to providers regarding EPT.
- On June 17th, a webinar on EPT will be offered by the Region II STD/HIV Prevention Training Center.

Please see attachments for additional information.

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

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

The Erie County Department of Health does not provide medical advice. The information provided on the Erie County Department of Health website is not an attempt to practice medicine and is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. It is for informational purposes only. Always seek the advice of your personal physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition or issue. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of the content found on the Erie County Department of Health website or this correspondence.

The ECDOH Health Alert & Advisory System is an e-mail notification system designed to alert community partners about important health related information. **You can sign up to receive alerts & advisories at www.erie.gov/health/services/health_professionals.asp.**

March 2011

Dear Colleague,

In 2009, Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) was signed into law in New York State (NYS). Article 2312 of the NYS Public Health Law permits health care providers (i.e. physicians, midwives, nurse practitioners and physician assistants) to provide *Chlamydia trachomatis* (Ct) patients with antibiotics or a written prescription for antibiotics to deliver to his or her sexual partner(s) without prior clinical assessment of those partners. This law is intended to decrease the morbidity caused by Ct infection and re-infection. It does so by enabling timely treatment of Ct within partner networks.

Ct is a leading cause of tubal infertility, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), infertility and ectopic pregnancy. In 2009, over 92,000 Ct cases were reported in NYS. Untreated partners are an important source of re-infection, and each re-infection increases the risk of negative reproductive health outcomes. EPT has been shown to reduce Ct re-infection, and augments provider options for managing the care of partners of Ct patients.

In NYS, the use of EPT is limited to Ct infection only. The recommended EPT treatment for Ct is **1g of azithromycin in a single oral dose**. Other key provisions of the law are listed below:

- EPT should not be provided to Ct patients concurrently infected with gonorrhea or syphilis.
- EPT use is *not* recommended for treating men who have sex with men due to a high risk of HIV co-morbidity in partners.
- EPT prescriptions must include the phrase: "EPT" in the body of the prescription. Prescriptions can be provided to patients without name, address or date of birth of the sex partner; the written designation of "EPT" shall be sufficient for the pharmacist to fill the prescription. If needed, pharmacists can obtain the demographic information at the time of prescription drop-off or pick up.
- **Health care providers or pharmacists who dispense EPT in accordance with this law shall not be subject to liability or be deemed to have engaged in unprofessional conduct.**
- EPT issued as medication or as a prescription to the original patient must be accompanied by written materials for patients and partners, addressing possible side effects and contraindications to EPT medication.

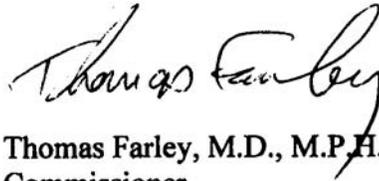
For these written materials and other resources available to health care providers and pharmacists, please visit the NYS Department of Health web site (health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/std/) or the New York City Health Department website (nyc.gov/html/doh/html/std/ept.shtml). Questions may be sent to the NYS Department of Health at ept@health.state.ny.us or the New York City Health Department at ept@health.nyc.gov.

We look forward to working with you during the implementation of EPT in NYS. Thank you for your efforts to help ensure treatment of persons infected with Ct, and to decrease the spread of Ct in NYS.

Sincerely,



Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner
New York State Department of Health



Thomas Farley, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner
New York City Department of Health
and Mental Hygiene

The Region II STD/HIV Prevention Training Center, the American Academy of Pediatrics and Physicians for Reproductive Choice present:
Expedited Partner Therapy in New York State Webinar

The Region II STD/HIV Prevention Training Center at the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, the American Academy of Pediatrics and Physicians for Reproductive Choice present:

Expedited Partner Therapy in New York State: A New Tool for Providers to Prevent Chlamydia Reinfection Among Adolescents

We invite New York State clinical providers with adolescent patients to attend: physicians, nurses, advanced practice nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians' assistants, and midwives.

Speakers:

Dr. Gale Burstein, University at Buffalo Pediatrics Associates
Alison Muse, NYS Department of Health
Dr. Alwyn Cohall, Columbia University

Objectives:

1. Describe how to offer Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) as a partner treatment strategy for chlamydia infections in NYS.
2. Describe how to build the adolescent's motivation and capacity to perform behaviors that help them to discuss sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and treatment with their partners to avoid STIs.



American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™
District II (New York State)



FRIDAY JUNE 17TH 12:00-1:30 pm

Registration:

This webinar is presented at no cost. Registration is **required**. To register, please visit:
http://nycptc.org/upcoming_classes.html

Accreditation:

CME: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention designates this enduring educational activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.
Continuing Education designated for Non-Physicians: Non-physicians will receive a certificate of participation.

CNE: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is accredited as a provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This activity provides 1 contact hours.