

Treatment for you and your partner - Chlamydia, Gonorrhea & Trichomoniasis

Why do we need treatment?

Many people with Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) do not know they have it because they feel fine. But it is important to get treatment as soon as possible to protect your health, to avoid spreading the STI to others, and to prevent yourself from being re-infected. Without treatment, these STIs can cause serious health problems including:

- Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)
- Ectopic pregnancy
- Infertility
- Increased risk of HIV

How do I get treatment for my sexual partners?

It is important to tell everyone you have had sex with in the last 60 days that they need to see a doctor to be tested for STIs. The best way for your partners to get treatment is for them to follow up with their health care provider or go to the local health department so they can discuss any concerns and check for additional infections. We strongly recommend that your partner follow up with their health care provider if any of the following applies to them:

- **Female partners:** If your partner has any of the symptoms in the list below they should see a doctor to be certain they do not have Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID). PID can be serious and may lead to infertility, pregnancy problems, or chronic pelvic pain.
 - lower belly pain
 - pain during sex
 - vomiting
 - fever
- **Pregnant partners:** It is very important for pregnant partners to see a doctor to get pregnancy services and prenatal care.
- **Male partners:** If your partner has pain or swelling of the testicles, or has a fever, they should see a doctor as soon as possible.
 - **Men who have sex with men:** Michigan continues to experience high rates of syphilis and HIV in men who have sex with men. Many men with

gonorrhea or chlamydia could also have syphilis or HIV and not know it. If your male partner has sex with other men, it is very important that they see a healthcare provider and get tested for HIV and syphilis.

If your partners are unable or unwilling to go to a health care provider, they can be treated using Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT).

What is Expedited Partner Therapy?

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is a fast, convenient, and private way for sexual partners to get treatment for chlamydia, gonorrhea or trichomoniasis, three common sexually transmitted infections (STIs). To make sure your sexual partners receive treatment to fight the infection, you (the patient) will receive a prescription for yourself and 1 for each of your sexual partners.

Your sexual partners may fill the prescription at their preferred pharmacy. The name on the prescription for your sexual partners will be “Expedited Partner Therapy” with the birthdate “Jan. 1, *current year*”.

If you know your sexual partners’ preferred pharmacy you can choose to have the prescription faxed to their pharmacy. Make sure you give your sexual partners the Order Number on the prescription. They must provide this number to the pharmacist in order to pick up their prescription.

Who pays for Expedited Partner Therapy prescriptions?

Your sexual partners will be responsible for the cost of their medications. If your partners have prescription coverage, they can provide their insurance information so the pharmacy can bill their health plan. If your partners do not have health insurance, they can contact their local health department for treatment.

What should my partner and I know about the prescriptions?

Read all of the information provided before taking the medication. It is important to take all of the medication prescribed to cure the infection. When taken properly it will stop the infection and could decrease chances of having complications later on. Do not share medication with anyone. People who have allergies to antibiotics or who have serious health conditions such as liver

disease, kidney disease, heart disease, colitis, or other stomach problems, should not take the medications and should see a healthcare provider.

Prescription Warnings:

Doxycycline:

- **Do not take** doxycycline (Vibramycin) if you are allergic to tetracyclines or doxycycline.
- Do **not** double up on pills if you miss a dose.
- Do **not** take if you are pregnant, nursing, allergic to tetracyclines, have liver or kidney disease, or are taking isotretinoin (acne medication).
- Take all the medication with a full glass of liquid and remain upright for 30-60 minutes.
- Doxycycline can make birth control pills less effective, so use another form of birth control (such as condoms, foams, and abstinence) until you finish taking the doxycycline and start a new cycle of birth control pills.
- Avoid antacids, Pepto-Bismal, and vitamins that contain iron while taking this medication.
- This medication may increase levels of digoxin (heart medication) and theophylline (asthma medication) and may increase the effects of warfarin (blood thinner).
- This medication may cause yeast infections and increased sensitivity to sunlight (sunburn).

Azithromycin:

- Do **not** take this medication if you have liver disease.
- **Do not take** azithromycin if you have had an allergic reaction to:
 - azithromycin (Zithromax)
 - erythromycin
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin)
 - telithromycin
- Avoid aluminum and magnesium containing antacids for 2 hours after taking this medication.

Cefixime:

- **Do not take** cefixime if you have an allergy to cephalosporins (Ceftin, Cefzil, Keflex, Omnicef) or a life-threatening allergy to penicillin.

Metronidazole:

- **Do not take** metronidazole (Flagyl) if you are allergic to metronidazole.

Ambulatory Care Services
Expedited Partner Therapy: For Chlamydia and Gonorrhea

- If you are breastfeeding, you should wait 2 days before you breastfeed again.
- Do **not** take this medication if you are taking prescription medications for alcoholism, or if you have liver disease.
- Do not drink alcohol for 24 hours after taking this treatment. Doing so may cause abdominal cramping, nausea, vomiting, headaches and flushing.
- This medication may enhance the effects of warfarin (blood thinner) and may increase lithium (psychiatric medication) and phenytoin (seizure medications) levels.
- This medication may cause metallic taste, yeast infections, dizziness, and tingling in the arms and legs.

What happens after STI treatment?

It is important to make sure that your infection is gone after treatment.

- You and your partners should abstain from (stop) sexual intercourse until you and your partners have completed treatment.
 - Continue to be abstinent until 7 days after you complete a single-dose regimen, or after you complete a multiple-dose regimen, to reduce the risk of reinfection.
- We recommend that you and your partners see a health care provider in 3 months for repeat testing.
- If you or your partner is pregnant, we recommend repeat testing in 3-4 weeks.

How can my partner and I prevent STIs?

There are multiple ways to prevent STIs.

- The only sure way to avoid getting or transmitting an STI is to not have sex.
- Use barrier methods, such as condoms, every time you have sex.
- Limit your number of sexual partners.
- Get regular medical exams, including testing for STIs.

Where can my partner and I learn more?

For more information about EPT or STIs, please contact your healthcare provider or local public health department. You can also visit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services HIV/STI website

www.michigan.gov/hivstd

Free or low cost STI testing and treatment

Statewide-Michigan Department of Health and Human Services	
STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) Program: http://www.michigan.gov/hivstd or call (800)-872-2437	
Washtenaw (Including Ypsilanti & Ann Arbor):	
Unified - HIV Health and Beyond (734)-572-9355	The Corner Health Clinic (734)-484-3600
Planned Parenthood (734)-973-0710	Washtenaw County Health Department (734)544-6840
Regional Alliance for Healthy Schools (If aged 21 or younger): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ypsilanti Community High School (734)-221-1007 • Lincoln High School (734)-714-9600 • Pathways to Success Academic Campus (734) 973-9167 	
Genesee County (Including Flint):	
Genesee County Health Department (810)-257-3139	Genesee County Health Department Burton Health Center (810) 237-4538
Planned Parenthood Flint Health Center (810)-238-3631	Planned Parenthood Burton Health Center (810) 743-4490
Wellness Services (810)-232-0888	
Regional Alliance for Healthy Schools (If aged 21 or younger) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Academy of Flint (810)-600-5290 • Richfield Academy (810)-285-9815 • Kearsley High School (810)-591-5330 • Carman-Ainsworth High School (810) 591-5473 • Beecher High School (810) 591-9333 	
Wayne County (Including Detroit):	
ACCESS (313) 216-2200	Corktown (313) 832-3300
Detroit Public Health STD Clinic (313) 577-9827	
Macomb County:	

Ambulatory Care Services
Expedited Partner Therapy: For Chlamydia and Gonorrhea

Macomb County Health Dept. (586) 465-9217	ACCESS (586) 722-6036
Oakland County:	
Oakland County Health Division- North Oakland Health Center (248) 858-1280	Oakland County Health Division-South Oakland Health Center (248) 424-7000

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by University of Michigan Health for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by U-M Health and for which U-M Health does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan

Adapted from: Michigan Department of Community Health. [Expedited Partner Therapy: Information Sheet for Patients and Partners.](#)

Reviewers: Susan Ernst, MD; Okeoma Mmeje, MD, MPH

Patient Education by [University of Michigan Health](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License](#). Last Revised 03/2022