

# Patient Delivered Partner Therapy (PDPT)

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# Essential Access Health

- Champions and promotes quality sexual + reproductive health care for all.
- Partners with the CA STD Control Branch and L.A County Division of HIV/STD Programs
- Implements best practices in STD prevention and case management statewide

# Agenda

- Partner Management
- Essential Access Health's CT/GC PDPT Distribution Program
- Operationalizing PDPT

# Partner Management

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# Case History

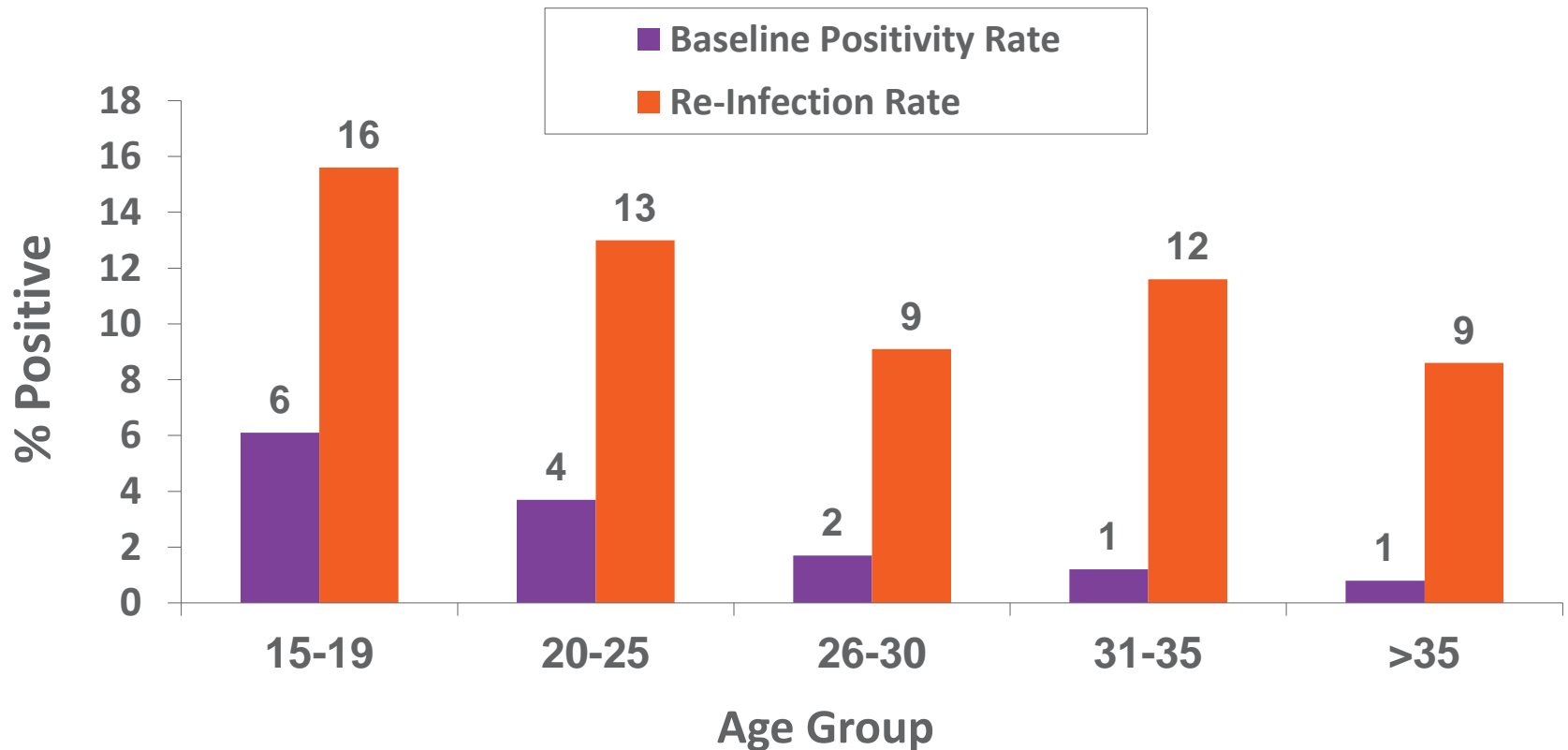


- Janet is a 22 year old female who tested positive for Chlamydia 3 months ago and received treatment.
- She returns to the clinic in 3 months to be re-tested for Chlamydia.
- Her retest comes back as positive. She was surprised by the positive test result.
- She shares that she has had no new partners within the last 3 months and that she has been with the same partner in a monogamous relationship.

# Why treat partners of patients with STDs?

- Prevent complications in the partner
- Stop the spread of infection to future partners
- Prevent re-infection in the patient
- Increased risk of other STD and / or HIV infection

# Reinfection is Common



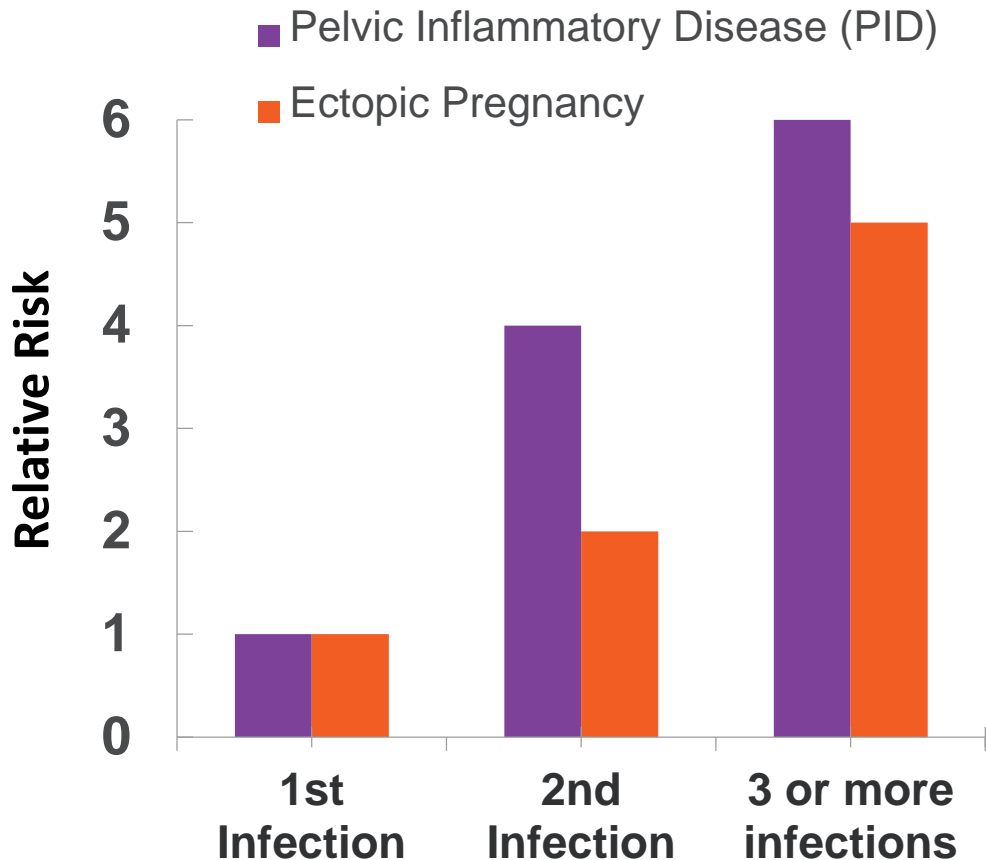
Source: Family PACT and Quest Diagnostics data

Prepared by: CDPH STD Control Branch

CT positivity by age in Females (2008/2009) *N* = 124,650

# Reinfection is Dangerous

- **2<sup>nd</sup> infection:**
  - 4x risk of PID
  - 2x risk of ectopic pregnancy
- **3+ infections:**
  - 6x risk of PID
  - 5x risk of ectopic pregnancy





# Partner Management Recommendations

- All sexual partners from 2 months prior to positive test
  - Create a Partner Treatment Plan
    - Patient brings partner to clinic (BYOP)\*
    - Patient refers partner for testing
    - Anonymous partner notification
    - Provider referral
    - Local health department referral
    - Expedited partner therapy (EPT)
      - Patient-delivered partner therapy (PDPT)\*

# How does PDPT work?

## Medical Provider

Treats the patient

Gives the patient medication or a prescription + educational materials for sex partners

## Index Patient

- Delivers medication or prescription + educational materials to sex partners

## Sex Partners

- Take the medication and completes treatment for CT and/or GC

# First-Line Treatment vs. PDPT

## First-Line Treatment

## Patient-Delivered Partner Therapy

**Chlamydia**

azithromycin 1 gm orally once

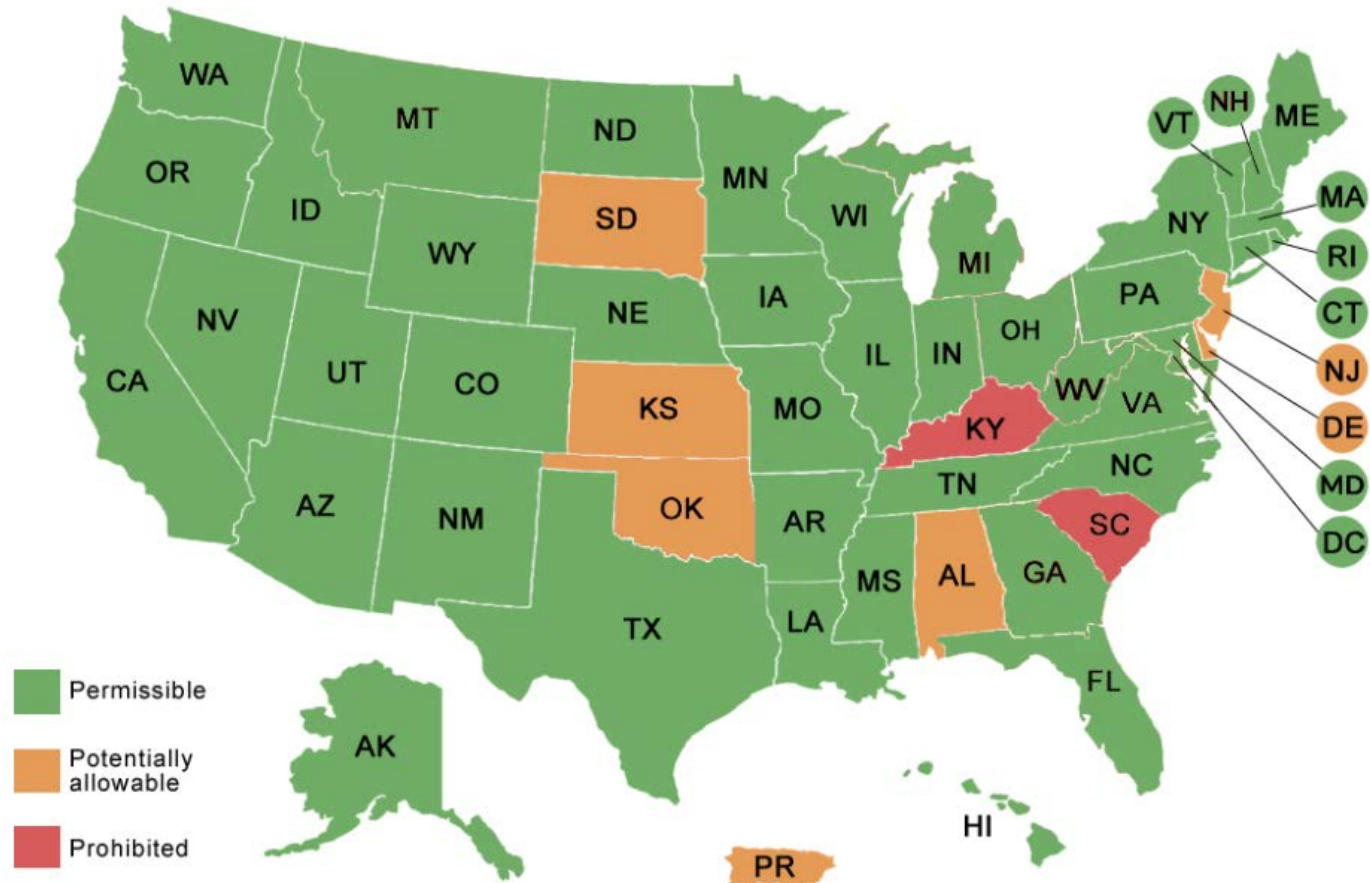
azithromycin 1 gm orally once

**Gonorrhea**

ceftriaxone 250 mg IM once  
+  
azithromycin 1 gm orally  
once

cefixime 400 mg orally once  
+  
azithromycin 1 gm orally  
once

# Legal Status of EPT in U.S.



# Status of PDPT in California



## Patient-Delivered Partner Therapy (PDPT) for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Trichomoniasis: Guidance for Medical Providers in California

These guidelines were developed by the California Department of Public Health Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Control Branch in collaboration with the California STD Controllers Association, and the California Prevention Training Center (CAPTC)

<https://archive.cdph.ca.gov/pubsforms/Guidelines/Documents/CA-STD-PDPT-Guidelines.pdf>

- Legal since 2001 for CT and 2007 for GC and other STDs
- CDC and STDCB guidelines are available
- The practice is supported by:
  - American Medical Association
  - American Academy of Family Physicians
  - American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
  - American Society for Adolescent Medicine
- CA has had an adverse events reporting system since 2001, and has never received a report

# Medicolegal Considerations

- Provider Liability
  - Liability for PDPT is no different from the liability of any other action taken by a healthcare provider
  - PDPT is evidence-based and supported by national and state guidelines.
  - Treating patient's partners is a standard of care to reduce reinfection rates for STDs like CT + GC

# How Often is PDPT Being Used?

In a 2007 survey of California family planning providers:

- 91% reported ever using PDPT for chlamydia-infected clients
- 73% reported **routinely** using PDPT for chlamydia
- 39% reported offering PDPT for gonorrhea

# Which Partners Should Get PDPT?

- **All** sex partners within last 2 months of index patient's diagnosis
- Most recent sex partner(s) if no sex partners within last 2 months
- No limit to number of doses that can be distributed in the case of multiple sex partners
- Male + female partners
- Gender + Sexual Orientation of a patient does not impact PDPT consideration





## When PDPT is Not Recommended

- **Co-infected** with other STDs that are not covered by PDPT medication.
- Suspected child abuse, sexual assault, or where a patient's **safety** is in question
- Severe **allergies** to antibiotics
- Pharyngeal Gonorrhoea
- Symptomatic patients who have a more serious condition (i.e fever of unknown origin, pelvic pain in women, testicular pain in men)

# Essential Access Health's CT/GC PDPT Program

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# Options for Providing PDPT: Prescriptions

## Something you can do TODAY!

- Providers can give patients written prescriptions for partner treatment to be filled at their local pharmacy without examination of the person's partner(s) *Health & Safety Code 120582*

# Current Barriers to PDPT Implementation in California

- Reimbursement mechanisms are not yet available through Family PACT, Medi-Cal or private insurance
- The patient or partner(s) would pay for the medication out of pocket

# CT/GC PDPT Distribution Program

- Free, pre-packaged medication to treat CT and GC
- Launched in 2005
- PDPT in 2017:
  - 21,046 CT doses distributed
  - 5,259 GC doses distributed
  - 194 clinics in 37 local health jurisdictions
- Eligible clinics must:
  - Be located in California
  - Serve a population at risk for STDs
  - Participate in the 340B Drug Pricing Program
  - Serve an uninsured or underinsured population
  - Provide onsite treatment for index patient



[www.essentialaccess.org/pdpt](http://www.essentialaccess.org/pdpt)

# PDPT Medication



CT packed medication



GC combo packed medication

# Participation Requirements

- Provide onsite index patient treatment for CT + GC
- Distribute PDPT to CT/GC+ patients for treatment of partners unable or unlikely to seek care based on clinical judgment
- Dispense PDPT with educational materials and clinic referral\*
- Maintain log of all dispensed PDPT medication
- Watch Essential Access Health's PDPT webinar series annually

# Ordering Medication: Data Reporting

- When placing a new order, each clinic must report:
  - Number of doses remaining in stock
  - Number of expired doses
  - Aggregate CT/GC data\*
    - Number of positive cases, by gender
    - Number of patients provided with PDPT, by gender
    - Number of doses of PDPT dispensed to CT and GC-positive patients, by gender





It wasn't easy hearing about this, but I'm glad I got treated right away.

Learn more about gonorrhea:

- Call toll free  
1-800-232-4636
- Or visit  
[www.ashastd.org](http://www.ashastd.org)



# Gonorrhea:

## What You Should Do Now

Your sex partner has gonorrhea (gone-o-RHEE-ah).

This is a curable infection people can get from having sex. You may have gonorrhea, too.

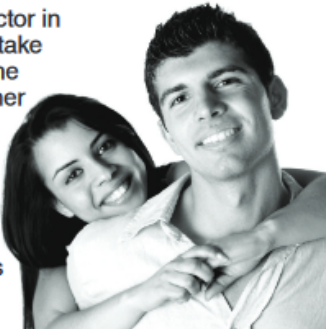
Your partner has taken medication to treat gonorrhea. You must also take medication as soon as you can.

### Here's what you need to know:

- Gonorrhea is easy to treat.
- You can get gonorrhea by having sex with the penis, vagina, or anus. You can also get it by having oral sex (mouth on penis or vagina).
- Many people have gonorrhea and don't know it.
- Some people have pain, a burning feeling when you urinate (pee), or a discharge (drip).
- If you don't get treated, you can get very sick or you may not be able to have children.
- For women who don't get treated and later get pregnant, gonorrhea can hurt their babies.

### Get Treated

- The best way to take care of this infection is to go to a clinic right away.
- If you can't get to a doctor in the next several days, take the medication, or fill the prescription, your partner brought you.
- Because people can have more than one STD at the same time it is important that you visit a clinic as soon as possible to get tested for other STD's.



Anyone shown in these photos is a model. The photos are used for illustrative purposes only.

# Patient Education Materials

## Available in multiple languages:

- Chlamydia
  - English
  - Spanish
  - Chinese
  - Vietnamese
- Gonorrhea
  - English
  - Spanish
- Trichomoniasis
  - English
  - Spanish

# Guidance for Providers



Patient-Delivered Partner  
Therapy (PDPT) for  
Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and  
Trichomoniasis:  
Guidance for Medical  
Providers in California

These guidelines were developed by the  
California Department of Public Health Sexually  
Transmitted Diseases (STD) Control Branch in  
collaboration with the California STD  
Controllers Association, and the California  
Prevention Training Center (CAPTC)

January 2016

- Partners should ***read the information material very carefully before taking the medication***
- Partners should ***seek a complete STD evaluation as soon as possible***, regardless of whether they take the medication
- Partners who are pregnant or who could be pregnant should seek care for their pregnancy as soon as possible***
- Patients and partners should ***abstain from sex for at least 7 days after treatment*** and until 7 days after all partners have been treated.
- Partners should be advised to seek clinical services for retesting 3 months after treatment\****

# How to Operationalize PDPT

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# Clinical Policies for STD Treatment / Family Planning Services



Policy includes statements around:

- Purpose of practice
- Procedure of Implementation
  - Who
  - What
  - Where
  - How

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES  
MEDICAL AND NURSING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**SUBJECT:** PATIENT DELIVERED PARTNER THERAPY POLICY NO. 503  
FOR CHLAMYDIA, GONORRHEA AND TRICHOMONAS

**PURPOSE:** To decrease the risk of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and trichomonas (CT/GC/TV) re-infection in patients.

To improve the control of CT/GC/TV within Los Angeles County by offering Patient Delivered Partner Therapy (PDPT) as a partner management option for patients with CT/ GC/TV.

**POLICY:**

Patient-delivered partner therapy (PDPT) is an alternative partner management strategy for patients' partners for whom prompt medical evaluation and treatment cannot otherwise be ensured. A combination of partner strategies may be used, e.g., a patient may choose to refer one partner to the clinic but take PDPT for other partner(s).

The first-choice strategy for managing partners of patients with CT/GC/TV is to attempt to have all sex partners evaluated, tested, and treated for STDs by a provider.

The partner(s) should still be encouraged to seek follow-up medical care as soon as possible even if PDPT is provided.

Appropriate patients for PDPT are those with a diagnosis of uncomplicated CT/GC/TV infection.

The diagnosis of these infections should be either by

- a) Laboratory confirmed result consistent with infection

**OR**

- b) High clinical suspicion - Provider observes and documents that he/she has a high clinical suspicion for CT/GC/TV infection.

All partners in the 60 days prior to diagnosis should be considered at risk for infection and should be treated. If patient reports no partners in previous 60

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 30, 2017

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APPROVED: *Debra Deverford*

# Same Day Visits



- Offer same day visits when you do follow-up positive STD calls
- Check-in about partner treatment
  - State they can bring their partner's in for follow-up or offer PDPT

# EHR – Order Set

## Under Nursing orders:

- 2. Chlamydia Treatment: administer Azithromycin 1g PO (patient)
- OR dispense: Doxycycline 100 mg PO BID x 7d
- AND dispense: Azithromycin 1g PO (partner Rx) ←

## Under patient education:

- Patient Delivered Partner Therapy for Chlamydia - English
- Patient Delivered Partner Therapy for Chlamydia - Spanish

## Other document we can give patient:

- Letter for Partner STD (for patient to give partner stating Dx and Rx)

# Clinical Dispensary / Pharmacy for Onsite Treatment

- Treatment can also be provided by an onsite pharmacist
- Educate Onsite Pharmacists on dispensing PDPT
- Support Pharmacists in having health education materials to provide to patient when dispensing PDPT medication



# QR Codes

- QR codes allow patients to download materials to their phones, tablets, etc.



## For You

Our Vision: Healthy People in Healthy Communities

### Chlamydia Information Guide:

#### Symptoms, treatment and resources

##### 1. What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a very common sexually transmitted infection (STI). You can get it in your vagina, penis, anus or throat. Most people with Chlamydia don't have any signs or symptoms. When people have symptoms, they can be mild at first. They can show up right away or as long as 30 days after having sex with someone with Chlamydia.

You may have some of these symptoms:

- Pain or burning when you urinate (pee)
- Fluid from the vagina, penis, or anus that smells or looks strange
- Fever
- Bleeding from the vagina during or after sex
- Pain in the lower belly, back or anus, especially when having sex (for women)
- Pain in the penis, testicles or anus, especially when having sex (for men)



##### 2. Is Chlamydia a serious disease?

Yes. You must see a doctor if you think you have Chlamydia.

If you don't get treated, you can:

- Pass Chlamydia to people you have sex with
- Get other diseases, like HIV more easily
- Have problems getting pregnant
- Pass it to your baby during birth
- Have pain in your lower belly during sex for women
- Have a pregnancy that grows outside of the uterus, which can cause death
- Have pain and swelling in the testicles

##### 3. How does Chlamydia spread?

You can get Chlamydia by having vaginal, anal, or oral sex with someone who has it. Most people don't know they have it because they don't have symptoms. You can't tell if someone has it by looking at them. Getting tested is the only way to find out if you have Chlamydia.

##### 4. What do I do if I have Chlamydia?

Follow these 3 important steps to cure Chlamydia:

1. Take all of the medicine the doctor or nurse gives you. Don't share your medicine with anyone else unless instructed by the doctor or nurse.
2. Make sure your sex partner(s) from the past 2 months get medicine for Chlamydia as soon as possible.
3. Don't have sex until 7 days after both you and your sex partner(s) finish the medicine. If you have sex before 7 days use a condom.

**If you don't follow all of these steps, you can get Chlamydia again and it can be worse.**

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Division of HIV and STD Programs  
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/hiv  
310-291-8000



## For Your Partners



### Chlamydia: What You Should Do Now



"It wasn't easy hearing about this, but I'm glad I got treated right away."

Your sex partner has chlamydia (Ma-MID-ee-a).

This is a curable infection people can get from having sex. You may have chlamydia, too.

Your partner has taken medication to cure chlamydia. You must take the same kind of medication as soon as you can.

Here's what you need to know:

- Chlamydia is easy to cure. But both you and your partner(s) must take all the medicine right away.
- You can get chlamydia by having sex with the penis, vagina, or anus. You can also get it by having oral sex (mouth on penis or vagina).
- Many people have chlamydia and don't know it.
- Some people have pain or a discharge (drip).
- If you don't get treated, you can get very sick or you may not be able to have children.
- For women who don't get treated and later get pregnant, chlamydia can hurt their babies.

Take the pills your partner brings you.

Your partner may bring you pills or a prescription to get them. Either way, it is important to take them as soon as you can.



Learn more about Chlamydia:  
■ Call toll free 1-800-755-0580  
■ Or visit publichealth.lacounty.gov/Chlamydia



Always check the ingredients in home remedies and over-the-counter medicines.



# Set up 3\* month reminder before patient leaves

- Set-up Appointment
- Set-up Appointment Reminder



# Clinic Promotion of PDPT

- “STD Partner Treatment Offered Here”
- Flyers
- Clinic Signage

## If you've been diagnosed with an STD, you may be able to get treatment for your partner, too.



If you've been diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea, the first step is to **get treatment**.

But did you know that **you may be able to get treatment for your partner, too?**

Talk to your doctor. They may be able to give you medicine or a prescription for your partner – even without seeing them. This is called **expedited partner therapy (EPT)** or patient-delivered partner therapy (PDPT), and it's available in most states.

### With EPT:

#### PRESCRIPTION

- Your partner can get treated quickly – without having to go to the doctor first
- You'll be protected from your partner passing the infection back to you
- Neither of you will pass the infection on in the future



#### Why does my partner need treatment?

Without treatment, your partner could pass the STD back to you. Keep in mind that many people with chlamydia and gonorrhea have no signs or symptoms, so your partner may have the STD and not know it. Left untreated, chlamydia and gonorrhea can cause serious health problems.

If you've been diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea, **talk to your doctor** to find out if EPT is an option for you and your partner.

To learn more about how you can prevent STDs, visit [cdc.gov/std/prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/std/prevention).



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for HIV/AIDS,  
Viral Hepatitis, STD, and  
TB Prevention

# Prepackage Medication for PDPT

- Directions written on package or label for the use of the partner
- Include key PDPT counseling messages in bag/package
- Include condoms



# Technical Assistance

- Connect with Essential Access
  - Trainings
  - STD management updates
  - Chart Review

# Thank You!

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