

Partner Treatment for STIs

BACKGROUND: In 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that health care providers who treat patients for chlamydia and gonorrhea also provide treatment for the patient's partner, even if he or she has not been seen by the provider. In response to this recommendation, several states have adopted laws and regulations to implement so-called expedited partner therapy (EPT). Most of these state policies follow the CDC guidelines and recommend this course of treatment for gonorrhea and chlamydia infections. In other cases, states allow EPT for the treatment of all STIs or only for specific infections, such as gonorrhea, chlamydia or trichomoniasis. Several of these states encourage or require the health care practitioner to provide information about STIs to the patient to give to their partner.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 24 states allow health care practitioners to provide at least some STI treatment for the partner of a patient diagnosed with an STI without first examining the partner.
 - 6 states allow treatment for all or most STIs.
 - 18 states permit treatment for specific STIs.
 - 18 states allow treatment for chlamydia.
 - 14 states allow treatment for gonorrhea.
 - 2 states permit treatment for trichomoniasis.
- 11 states encourage or require health care practitioners to provide patients with information about STIs to give to their partner.



Advancing sexual and reproductive health worldwide through research, policy analysis and public education.

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EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY

STATE	PERMITS TREATMENT OF A PATIENT'S PARTNER FOR:				INFORMATION FOR A PATIENT'S PARTNER
	All or Most STIs	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea	Trichomoniasis	
Alaska	X				
Arizona	X				
California	X				
Connecticut		X	X		
Idaho		♦	♦		
Illinois		X	X		Required
Indiana		X	X		Required
Iowa		X	X		
Louisiana		X	X		Required
Maine*	X				Required
Massachusetts		X			Encouraged
Minnesota†		X	X		
Missouri		X	X		
Nevada†		X	X		
New Mexico*		X	X	X	Encouraged
New York		X			Required
North Carolina†		X	X		
North Dakota	X				
Oregon*		X	X		Encouraged
Rhode Island		X	X		
Tennessee*		X			Required
Texas	X				
Utah		X	X		
Vermont		X			Required
Wisconsin		X	X	X	Required
TOTAL	6	18	14	2	11

♦ A new law goes into effect later in 2012.

* Allows treatment of a partner exposed to the infection in the 60 days before the patient was diagnosed.

† Requires providers to follow CDC guidelines, which recommend expedited partner treatment for the heterosexual partners of a patient with chlamydia and gonorrhea.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For information on state legislative and policy activity, click on Guttmacher's [Monthly State Update](#), for state-level policy information see Guttmacher's [State Policies in Brief](#) series, and for information and data on reproductive health issues, go to Guttmacher's [State Center](#). To see state-specific reproductive health information go to Guttmacher's [Data Center](#), and for abortion specific information click on [State Facts About Abortion](#). To keep up with new state relevant data and analysis sign up for the [State News Quarterly Listserv](#).

Sonfield A, [For some sexually transmitted infections, secondary prevention may be primary](#), *Guttmacher Policy Review*, 2009, 12(2):2-7