

# Safe, Effective Treatment for Your Sexual Partners

Common

Care

Curable



Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is a safe and effective way for you and your sexual partner(s) to get treatment if you have chlamydia or had sex with someone who does. Chlamydia is common and easy to cure. EPT is the best way to get quick and convenient treatment. This booklet will tell you what you need to know and do to easily treat a possible chlamydia infection.

### **What is chlamydia?**

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that is passed through unprotected oral, anal, and vaginal sex. In the District alone, there were 7,258 reports of chlamydia in 2012. Although it's common, chlamydia is easily curable.

### **What is Expedited Partner Therapy? Why am I getting medication from my partner?**

Your sexual partner has been diagnosed with chlamydia and may have passed the STD to you through unprotected sex. Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is a convenient, fast, and private way for you to receive safe and effective treatment for chlamydia without having to see a doctor.\* EPT lets you get the extra medication or a prescription for your use so you can be treated for chlamydia as soon as possible.

### **If I have an infection, should I have symptoms?**

You could have chlamydia with or without signs or symptoms. Even without symptoms, you are still able to pass chlamydia to another person through unprotected sex.

**MEN** may notice:

- Discharge from the penis or rectum
- Pain or discomfort while urinating
- Pain or itching in the rectum
- Pain or swelling in their testicles ("balls")

**WOMEN** may notice:

- Unusual vaginal discharge or discharge from the rectum
- Pain or burning when urinating or an increased need to urinate
- Pain during sex
- Bleeding between periods or after sex
- Lower abdominal or pelvic ("belly") pain or cramping

\*EPT also treats gonorrhea and trichomoniasis.

### **What is the medication I am getting?**

You are being given an antibiotic to treat your chlamydia infection. It should be a single dose that you take with food and water. You should not have sex for seven days after taking single-dose antibiotics. Also, you should be tested in one week to be sure your infection has been cured and again in three months to check for the possibility of reinfection.

You may have unknowingly shared chlamydia or other STDs with other people through unprotected sex. Let people who have been your sexual partners during the past 60 days know about this possibility so they can get a checkup and receive any needed treatments. Sharing this information can be a powerful way to limit the spread of chlamydia and other infections.

The antibiotics will help prevent you from transmitting chlamydia to your sexual partner(s) after you have been infected. However, the medicine will not protect you from contracting chlamydia or other STDs again if you engage in unprotected sex.

### Are antibiotics safe for me?

Even though antibiotics are very safe, you should **NOT** take this medication without first talking to your doctor to see if any of the following are true:

- You have ever had a bad reaction, rash, or allergy to prescribed medication.
- You are female and are having lower-belly pain, pain with sex, vomiting, or fever.
- You are male and are having pain or swelling in the testicles ("balls") or fever.
- You are pregnant or could potentially be pregnant.



**If you have more questions or any negative reactions to the medication, you should immediately stop taking it and see your doctor.**

#### *Any other questions can be directed to:*

DC Department of Health  
HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration  
Division of STD/TB Control  
899 N. Capitol St. NE, Fourth Floor  
Washington, DC 20002  
(202) 671-4900  
(202) 671-4860 (Fax)  
[eptdc.doh@dc.gov](mailto:eptdc.doh@dc.gov)  
[www.dctakesonstds.com](http://www.dctakesonstds.com)

