

TITLE: Awareness of Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) and Barriers to EPT utilization in an Outpatient Pharmacy Setting in Oregon

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ABSTRACT: Introduction: In Oregon, Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is a legal and recommended practice in which providers who diagnose a patient with chlamydia or gonorrhea provide a prescription for treatment for the patient's partners. Purpose: The goal of this study is to measure pharmacist knowledge and use of EPT and identify barriers to filling EPT prescriptions. Method: In February 2019, all pharmacies (46) in Linn, Lincoln and Benton county were sent an anonymous survey to distribute to their pharmacists about EPT knowledge, use, requirements, and barriers. Results: Of the 23 responses received, 83% filled an EPT prescription in the last year. 96% knew that EPT is legal for patients with Chlamydia and Gonorrhea, but 57% and 48% incorrectly thought EPT can also be prescribed for Syphilis or Trichomonas. 57% of respondents accurately identified the information required on a valid EPT prescription. Barriers to EPT utilization included billing/insurance, its rare use, and concerns for patient privacy. Conclusion: There is a lack of knowledge regarding which infections and patient populations EPT can be used for. 43% of respondents did not know what information was required for the EPT prescription to be valid. Interventions such as education should be employed to enhance pharmacists knowledge of EPT and hopefully decrease barriers to the use of EPT.

OBJECTIVE(S): Identify barriers to filling EPT prescriptions. Evaluate pharmacist knowledge and use of EPT.
