

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

A Guide for Partners

Why am I getting this medicine?

- Your partner is being treated for chlamydia. **Chlamydia** is an STI (sexually transmitted infection) that you can get through oral, anal, or vaginal sex.
- A medical provider has given your partner medicine to give to you to treat you for chlamydia. You may have chlamydia even without any symptoms. If you do not have chlamydia, this medicine won't do anything. This medicine is so you don't develop serious health problems or pass along the infection to others. This is called **Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)**.
- **EPT** is an easy, fast, and private way for you to be treated. The medicine is safe and works well when used the right way.

Why should I take this medicine?

- If not treated, chlamydia can lead to serious health problems.

Serious health problems that can happen:

- **PID (Pelvic Inflammatory Disease)**. PID can cause pain and affects the reproductive organs.
- **Ectopic pregnancy** (a pregnancy in the fallopian tubes)
- **Infertility** (not being able to have children)

What is this medicine?

- Medicines that treat chlamydia are **Azithromycin** (Zithromax) and **Doxycycline**. These are **antibiotics** (medicines that help fight infections).
- This medicine will get rid of chlamydia, but **will not treat other STIs**.
- You should not take this medicine if you are allergic to **doxycycline or azithromycin**.

How should I take this medicine?

- Take all of your pills as instructed. It is important to finish all of your pills.
- You can take the medicine on a full (with food) or an empty stomach (at least 1 hour before eating or 2 hours after eating).
- **If you throw up within an hour of taking the medicine, it will not work and you will need to get more.** Call the phone number below to plan a visit to a CHN clinic.

If you think you might have another STI, visit a CHN clinic to get tested.

After taking this medicine, what should I do?

- **Do not have sex (vaginal, oral, or anal) for 7 days after you and all your partners have been treated.** It takes a full week for the medicine to work.
- It is a good idea to get tested for STIs **every 3 to 6 months.**

Are there any side effects?

- Not usually, but there can be side effects.

If you have any of the serious side effects after taking this medicine, call 911 or go to emergency room right away.

Common side effects that can happen:	Serious side effects are rare, but can happen:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diarrhea• Nausea• Stomach aches• Headaches• Throwing up	<p>Some people may have allergic reactions to the medicine. These reactions can cause:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trouble breathing• Tightness in chest• Closing of throat• Swelling of lips or tongue• Hives (itchy bumps on the skin)

Talk to your CHN provider or health educator if you have more questions!