



July 20, 2022

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Chapter 511-2-8

“Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)”

The Department of Public Health proposes amendments to the rules located in Chapter 511-2-8, “Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT),” pursuant to its authority under Georgia Code Sections 31-2A-6 and 31-17-17.7(e).

The purpose of the proposed rulemaking is to expand the EPT program in Georgia to include treatment for gonorrhea.

The proposed rules are posted on the Department’s website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/regulationsrule-making>. Interested persons may submit comments on these proposed revisions in writing addressed to:

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Written comments must be submitted on or before August 10, 2022. Oral comments may be presented online or via phone at a public meeting scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on August 9, 2022. To join the public meeting:

- To join by computer:
 - <https://gapublichealth.webex.com/gapublichealth/j.php?MTID=mfee6f551eee7bff167283760e8fa711f>
 - Meeting Number: 2534 524 2113
 - Password: hW5WQ33J9cP
- To join by phone:
 - 1-415-655-0001 United States Toll
 - Access Code: 2534 524 2113

The Commissioner of Public Health will consider the proposed rules for adoption on or about August 12, 2022, to become effective on or about September 11, 2022.

Melanie Simon

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General Counsel
Georgia Department of Public Health

**RULES OF
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**CHAPTER 511-2
DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL**

**511-2-8
EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY (EPT)**

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Rule 511-2-8-.01 Definitions

- (1) "Expedited partner therapy" or EPT means the practice of prescribing, ordering, or dispensing antibiotic drugs to the sexual partner or partners of an index patient diagnosed with chlamydia and/or gonorrhea, without a physical examination of such partner or partners.
- (2) "Index patient" means a person who has been diagnosed as infected with chlamydia and/or gonorrhea, and who is not concurrently infected with ~~gonorrhea or~~ syphilis or HIV.
- (3) "Licensed practitioner" means any of the following persons:
 - (a) A physician licensed to practice medicine in this state;
 - (b) An advanced practice nurse or physician assistant acting pursuant to authority delegated by a licensed physician in accordance with Code Section 43-34-23 or 43-34-25 or 43-34-103(e.1); or
 - (c) A registered professional nurse employed by the Department, or by a county board of health.
- (4) "Partner" means a person who was or may have been exposed to chlamydia and/or gonorrhea by the index patient.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-6 and 31-17-7.1.

Rule 511-2-8-.02 Expedited partner therapy authorized

- (1) A licensed practitioner with prescriptive authority may write an EPT prescription for a drug that has been determined by the Department to be appropriate for EPT treatment of chlamydia and/or gonorrhea.
- (2) The current roster of drugs appropriate for EPT treatment of chlamydia and gonorrhea shall be listed in the Department's current "Expedited Partner Therapy Guidance for Healthcare Professionals" and shall also be posted on the Department's website.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-6 and 31-17-7.1.