



Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

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BULLETIN No. 09-01

To: Pharmacies & Pharmacists
From: Malcolm J. Broussard
Date: April 15, 2008
Re: Expedited Partner Therapy

The 2008 Louisiana Legislature passed a law that authorizes Expedited Partner Therapy in this state. When treating a patient diagnosed with gonorrhea or chlamydia, one alternative procedure now available to a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant to assist other individuals who may have been exposed to gonorrhea or chlamydia is the issuance of a prescription for the appropriate antibiotic to that partner even in the absence of a physical examination or other physician-patient relationship.

As you know, pharmacy laws and rules require that a prescription be issued only in the context of a legitimate physician-patient relationship. The legislature recognized the public health imperative for the prompt treatment of persons exposed to gonorrhea or chlamydia, and specifically authorized pharmacists to recognize prescriptions authorized under Expedited Partner Therapy as legitimate, notwithstanding any other provision of laws or rules to the contrary.

The 2008 legislation required the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to promulgate the rules necessary to implement this program, and those rules became final on February 20, 2009. We have enclosed a copy of the law with this bulletin.

The purpose of this bulletin is make you aware of the new law, so that you will recognize prescriptions for antibiotics issued under Expedited Partner Therapy as legitimate prescriptions even in the absence of a physician-patient relationship between the patient's partner and the prescriber.

Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950

Title 40 – Public Health and Safety

Chapter 5 – Miscellaneous Health Provisions

Part I. Venereal Diseases

§1064.1 Expedited partner therapy

- A. The purpose of this Section is to allow for the provision of medications or prescriptions by any physician licensed to practice medicine in this state or any advanced practice registered nurse who is licensed to practice nursing in this state, or any physician assistant who is licensed to practice in this state, provided such physician or nurse or physician assistant has the authority to write prescriptions in this state, to individuals who may have been exposed to gonorrhea or chlamydia. Expedited partner therapy is hereby authorized absent a doctor-patient relationship and absent clinical assessment.
- B. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, any physician or any advanced practice registered nurse who diagnoses or does a nurse clinical assessment or any physician assistant who performs an examination of a case of chlamydia or gonorrhea in an individual patient may prescribe, furnish, or otherwise provide prescription antibiotic drugs to that patient's sexual partner or partners absent a doctor-patient relationship or absent an advanced practice registered nurse-patient relationship and without examination or nurse clinical assessment or physician assistant examination of that patient's sexual partner or partners.
- C. If expedited partner therapy is chosen as an alternative, the patient with a case of chlamydia or gonorrhea will be given a written document that he agrees to give to his sexual contact. The document will contain, but will not be limited to, the following information:
 - (1) The sexual contact should be examined and treated by a physician, advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant, if at all possible.
 - (2) The medicine or prescription for medicine given to the sexual contact by the patient should not be taken by the contact if the contact has a history of allergy to the antibiotic or to the pharmaceutical class of antibiotic in which case the sexual contact should be examined and treated by a physician, advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant and offered another type of antibiotic treatment.
 - (3) The medicine or prescription for medicine given to the sexual contact by the patient should not be taken by the contact if the contact is pregnant, in which case the sexual contact should be examined by the prenatal health care provider.
- D. Any pharmacist licensed to practice pharmacy in this state may recognize a prescription authorized by this Section as valid notwithstanding any other provision of law or administrative rule to the contrary.
- E. The provisions of this Section which relate to expedited partner therapy shall be implemented according to rules promulgated by the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

(Added by Act 449 of 2008 Louisiana Legislature, effective August 15, 2008)

[Editor's Note: The administrative rule required by Subsection E was promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals at LAC 51:II.117.H, effective February 20, 2009.]