

§1242. Expedited partner therapy

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a health care professional who makes a clinical diagnosis of a sexually transmitted disease may provide expedited partner therapy for the treatment of the sexually transmitted disease if in the judgment of the health care professional the sexual partner is unlikely or unable to present for comprehensive health care, including evaluation, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. Expedited partner therapy is limited to a sexual partner who may have been exposed to a sexually transmitted disease within the previous 60 days and who is able to be contacted by the patient. [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

1. Counseling. A health care professional who provides expedited partner therapy shall provide counseling for the patient, including advice that all women and symptomatic persons, and in particular women with symptoms suggestive of pelvic inflammatory disease, are encouraged to seek medical attention. The health care professional shall also provide written materials provided by the department to be given by the patient to the sexual partner that include at a minimum the following.

A. A warning that a woman who is pregnant or might be pregnant should not take certain antibiotics and should immediately contact a health care professional for an examination; [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

B. Information about the antibiotic and dosage provided or prescribed; clear and explicit allergy and side effect warnings, including a warning that a sexual partner who has a history of allergy to the antibiotic or the pharmaceutical class of antibiotic should not take the antibiotic and should be immediately examined by a health care professional; [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

C. Information about the treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases; [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

D. The requirement of abstinence until a period of time after treatment to prevent infecting others; [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

E. Notification of the importance of the sexual partner's receiving examination and testing for the human immunodeficiency virus and other sexually transmitted diseases and information regarding available resources; [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

F. Notification of the risk to the sexual partner, others and the public health if the sexually transmitted disease is not completely and successfully treated; [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

G. . The responsibility of the sexual partner to inform that person's sexual partners of the risk of sexually transmitted disease and the importance of prompt examination and treatment; [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

H. Advice to all women and symptomatic persons, and in particular women with symptoms suggestive of pelvic inflammatory disease, to seek medical attention; and [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

I. Information other than the information under paragraphs A to H as determined necessary by the department. [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

2. Department to develop and disseminate materials. Taking into account the recommendations of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other nationally recognized medical authorities, the department shall provide information and technical assistance as appropriate to health care professionals who provide expedited partner therapy. The department shall develop and disseminate in electronic and other formats the following written materials:

- A. Informational materials for sexual partners, as described in subsection 1; [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]
- B. Informational materials for persons who are repeatedly diagnosed with sexually transmitted diseases; and [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]
- C. Guidance for health care professionals on the safe and effective provision of expedited partner therapy. [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

The department may offer educational programs about expedited partner therapy for health care professionals and pharmacists licensed under the Maine Pharmacy Act. [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

3. Immunity for health care professional. A health care professional who provides expedited partner therapy in good faith without fee or compensation under this section and provides counseling and written materials as required in subsection 1 is not subject to civil or professional liability in connection with the provision of the therapy, counseling and materials, except in the case of willful and wanton misconduct. A health care professional is not subject to civil or professional liability for choosing not to provide expedited partner therapy. [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

4. Immunity for pharmacist or pharmacy. A pharmacist or pharmacy is not subject to civil or professional liability for choosing not to fill a prescription that would cause that pharmacist or pharmacy to violate any provision of the Maine Pharmacy Act. [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

5. Rules. The department shall adopt rules, which are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, to implement this section. The department shall consider designating certain diseases as sexually transmitted diseases, including, but not limited to, chancroid, gonorrhea, granuloma inguinale, lymphogranuloma venereum, genital herpes simplex, chlamydia, nongonococcal urethritis, pelvic inflammatory disease, acute salpingitis, syphilis, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus, and shall consider the recommendations and classifications of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other nationally recognized medical authorities. [PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 533, §1 (NEW).

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