



Senate Bill 1491 was signed into law this past session. The law will become effective on November 1, 2024, and will be codified at 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-517, et.seq. The law provides **very limited options** for treatment known as Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT). EPT is the clinical practice of treating the sex partners of patients diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection by providing prescriptions or medications to the patient to take to his/her partner without the health care provider first examining the partner.

Providing treatment to a sex partner without first examining the partner **may only be done if all the following conditions are met.**

1. EPT provisions shall not apply to any sexually transmitted infection that could be chronic or require multiple treatment courses.
2. EPT may only be offered by the health care provider who clinically diagnosed the patient with a sexually transmitted infection.
3. Before EPT provisions may be used, the patient must be able to identify and demonstrate the ability to contact the patient's sexual partner who may have been exposed to a sexually transmitted infection. **The identity of the partner and contact method must be recorded in the patient's medical chart.**
4. The EPT provider must make the clinical determination, **and record in the patient chart**, that the patient's sexual partner is unlikely or unable to present for examination, testing, and treatment.
5. The EPT provider must provide counseling to the patient, including distributing written materials developed and provided by the State Department of Health. The patient must be instructed that this material be to be given by the patient to the patient's sexual partner. **A record of this counseling must be recorded in the patient chart. Counseling must include the following information, at a minimum:**
 - (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 provider for an examination;
 - (b) Information about the antimicrobial drug and dosage provided or prescribed, including a warning that a sexual partner who has a history of allergy to the drug or the pharmaceutical class of drug should not take the drug and should immediately contact a health care provider for examination;

- (c) Information about the treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted infections;
- (d) The requirement of sexual abstinence until a period of time after treatment to prevent infecting other sexual partners;
- (e) Notification of the importance of the sexual partners receiving examination and testing for human immunodeficiency virus and other sexually transmitted infections and information about available resources;
- (f) Notification of the risk to the patient, the patient's sexual partner, and the public if the sexually transmitted infection is not completely and successfully treated;
- (g) The responsibility of the sexual partner to inform the sexual partner's own sexual partners of the risk of sexually transmitted infections and the importance of prompt examination and treatment by a health care provider.