

Summary of Dr. Golden's Presentation on EPT

There are 4 types of referral: provider referral, contract referral, offer assistance, and patient referral. Of these, there is no routine public health assistance with patient referral.

There is limited data to support the superiority of provider referral to patient referral. While the theoretical basis for belief that patient notification can reduce the burden of GC/CT is relatively strong, little empiric data supports the efficacy of existing approaches. The current scope of public health PN services is simply too narrow to affect the prevalence of GC or CT

Characteristics of a new EPT System:

- *Entire population with GC/CT will be affected by the system
- *There is a variable level of intervention by using a targeted approach
- *This EPT system is feasible from a cost perspective
- *The basis of this EPT system is based on research evidence

After reviewing EPT studies, it was found that most persons with GC or CT will deliver meds to at least one of their sex partners if given the opportunity. Treating sex partners without mandatory prior exam actually increases the proportion of partners treated per index patient report for all STDs studied. This approach to treating partners decreases reinfection rates with GC and CT in index patients. EPT is more cost-effective than other studied chlamydial case finding activities.

Potential deleterious effects include adverse drug reactions, though there have not been any observed to date and Azithro and Cefixime are very safe, and missed opportunities to diagnose other STDs.

Potential barriers include legal barriers and adversity to change.

Limitations to EPT include the fact that not all partners are given EPT at this time.

In conclusion, the evidence is strong that EPT improves PN outcomes. The experiences in King County suggest that a health department can successfully promote the use of EPT. However, EPT does not assure that all partners are treated. The population-level impact of EPT is unknown because it is not being widely used at this time.