



Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., Director and State Health Officer

Governor Dave Freudenthal

January 22, 2008

Ref: DA-2008-101

Dear Healthcare Colleague:

It is the opinion of the Wyoming Department of Health Office of HealthCare Financing, Office of Pharmacy Services, that Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is an innovative option for the treatment of chlamydia and gonorrhea, sexually transmitted diseases (STD). Ideally, all patients should seek treatment for STD's, but in the real world, statistics have shown this does not happen. The strategy of providing information and medication to partners of the treated patient will hopefully, help prevent reinfection and reduce further transmission of these diseases.

Also, chlamydia is an illness that is many times, "silent" (especially in women); with no symptoms appearing until a later date. The serious health conditions that occur down the road include pelvic inflammatory disease, chronic pelvic pain and scarring, life-threatening ectopic pregnancies, and as many as 20% will have fertility problems.

Among women, the chlamydia infection rate of American Indian Natives is approximately five (5) times higher than among white females and the infection rate of Hispanic women is three (3) times more likely than white women. Both of these high risk populations are found in Wyoming.

We applaud the efforts of Canyon Hardesty and her team at the Wyoming Department of Health, Communicable Disease Section for being pro-active in their approach to controlling these diseases.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Homar, R.Ph.
State Pharmacist
Office of Pharmacy Services

Donna Artery, PharmD
Pharmacist Consultant
Office of Pharmacy Services

DA/am