



South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



Board of Pharmacy

110 Centerview Drive
Post Office Box 11927
Columbia, SC 29211-1927
Phone: (803) 896-4700
FAX: (803) 896-4596

Henry D. McMaster
Governor

Emily H. Farr
Director

Use of Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

November 29, 2021

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) “is the clinical practice of treating the sex partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea by providing prescriptions or medications to the patient to take to his/her partner without the health care provider first examining the partner.”¹ “This allows partners to receive treatment quickly and prevents the need for a potentially complicated notification process” and is effective in preventing reinfection and curtailing further transmission.²

In February 2021, the Board of Medical Examiners interpreted S.C. Code Ann. § 40-47-113(B) and concluded that the Medical Practice Act does not preclude the use of EPT. Pursuant to its interpretation of that section, the Board of Medical Examiners concluded that EPT is permissible under South Carolina law and that it is not unprofessional conduct for a licensee to use EPT.³

Similarly, the Board of Nursing in March 2021 determined it is not unprofessional conduct for an APRN, who holds prescriptive authority for the management of select sexually transmitted infections as listed in practice agreements, to engage in the use of EPT for the treatment of sexual partners of patients diagnosed with genital chlamydia and gonorrhea, in accordance with CDC guidelines in effect at the time of treatment.⁴

At its November 2021 meeting, the Board took a position on EPT after reviewing the positions taken by other boards and the conflicts that the South Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act may produce. Upon review, the Board of Pharmacy recognizes and supports EPT and recommends that pharmacies and pharmacists work with practitioners to develop policies and procedures to effectively care for those receiving EPT in accordance with current CDC guidance.

¹ *Expedited Partner Therapy*, CDC, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/std/ept/default.htm> (last accessed November 29, 2021).

² *Expedited Partner Therapy: Helping to Reduce Sexually Transmitted Infections*, CDC, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/std/products/success/ept-success-story-2016.pdf> (last accessed November 29, 2021).

³ <https://llr.sc.gov/med/PDF/EPT%20Position%20Statement.pdf>

⁴ [ExpeditedPartnerTherapy.pdf \(sc.gov\)](#)