



**County
Health Officials
of New York**

Leading the way to healthier communities

SUPPORTS

A.313/S2545 (Schimel/Hannon)

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to authorizing expedited partner therapy for certain sexually transmitted infections

The County Health Officials of New York (NYSACHO) supports A.2170 authorizing the expansion of expedited partner therapy (EPT) to include other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

This legislation would allow health care practitioners who diagnose an STI in an individual patient to prescribe, dispense, furnish or otherwise provide prescription antibiotic drugs for the sexually transmitted infection to that patient's sexual partner or partners without examination of that patient's partner or partners. The bill would limit these actions to only partners of those diagnosed with STIs for which the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the use of expedited partner therapy.

New York's STI/STD burden has increased substantially over the past decade. The CDC estimates that there are approximately 19 million new STD infections each year and costing the United States health care system as much as 15.9 billion dollars annually. To prevent reinfection and curtail further transmission, the CDC recommends that clinical management of patients with STDs should include treatment of a patient's current sexual partner(s). Too often, sexual partners of persons infected and diagnosed are not treated. This leads to frequent reinfections and further transmission. Ensuring treatment of sexual partners has been a central component of STI/STD prevention and control for decades.

Expedited partner therapy (EPT) refers to the delivery of medications or prescriptions by persons infected with an STI or STD to their sexual partners without prior clinical assessment of those partners. In light of significant morbidity from STI/STDs in the United States, coupled with diminished resources for traditional partner management practices, EPT offers a promising new tool to improve treatment, thus transmission, for some STDs. EPT is an important tool for local health departments in jurisdictions with high rates of infections and those with limited resources for partner notification methods.

For the above-referenced reasons, NYSACHO supports the above-referenced legislation and recommends it be enacted into law.

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