
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 606 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, BAKER, SCHWANK, A. WILLIAMS, SANTARSIERO,
FARNESE, LEACH, TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES, BLAKE, KEARNEY, COSTA,
BREWSTER, MUTH AND HAYWOOD, MAY 17, 2019

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 17, 2019

AN ACT

1 Providing for expedited partner therapy and for liability.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Expedited
6 Partner Therapy Act.

7 Section 2. Definitions.

8 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
9 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
10 context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 "Health care practitioner." As defined in section 103 of the
12 act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care
13 Facilities Act.

14 "Pharmacist." As defined in section 2(10) of the act of
15 September 27, 1961 (P.L.1700, No.699), known as the Pharmacy
16 Act.

17 "Pharmacy." As defined in section 2(12) of the Pharmacy Act.

1 Section 3. Health care practitioners.

2 (a) General rule.--Notwithstanding any other provision of
3 law or regulation to the contrary, a health care practitioner
4 may issue a prescription for or personally furnish antibiotics
5 to treat sexually transmitted infections, without having
6 examined the individual for whom the drug is intended, in
7 accordance with the Expedited Partner Therapy in the Management
8 of Sexually Transmitted Diseases guidance document issued by the
9 United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, if:

10 (1) The individual is a sexual partner of the health
11 care practitioner's patient.

12 (2) The patient has been diagnosed with a sexually
13 transmitted infection.

14 (3) The patient reports to the health care practitioner
15 that the individual is unable or unlikely to be evaluated or
16 treated by a health professional.

17 (b) Name on prescription.--If the health care practitioner
18 is unable to obtain the individual's name, the prescription
19 shall include the words "expedited partner therapy" or the
20 letters "EPT."

21 (c) Prescribed drug.--For each drug prescribed, the health
22 care practitioner shall do all of the following:

23 (1) Recommend to the patient that the individual seek
24 treatment from a health professional.

25 (2) Document the name of the drug prescribed and its
26 dosage in the patient's record.

27 (d) Furnished drug.--For each drug personally furnished, the
28 health care practitioner shall do all of the following:

29 (1) Provide the patient with information concerning the
30 drug for the purpose of sharing the information with the

1 individual, including directions for use of the drug and any
2 side effects, adverse reactions or known contraindications
3 associated with the drug.

4 (2) Recommend to the patient that the individual seek
5 treatment from a health professional.

6 (3) Document all of the following in the patient's
7 record:

8 (i) The name of the drug furnished and its dosage.

9 (ii) That information concerning the drug was
10 provided to the patient for the purpose of sharing the
11 information with the individual.

12 (e) Contact permitted.--A health care practitioner who
13 prescribes or personally furnishes a drug may contact the
14 individual for whom the drug is intended.

15 (f) Liability for prescribing or furnishing drug.--A health
16 care practitioner who in good faith prescribes or personally
17 furnishes a drug is not liable for or subject to any of the
18 following:

19 (1) Damages in any civil action.

20 (2) Prosecution in any criminal proceeding.

21 (3) Professional disciplinary action.

22 (g) Liability for not prescribing or furnishing drug.--A
23 health care practitioner shall not be subject to civil, criminal
24 or professional liability for choosing not to provide expedited
25 partner therapy.

26 Section 4. Pharmacists.

27 (a) Dispensing and labeling drug.--Notwithstanding any other
28 provision of law or regulation to the contrary, a pharmacist
29 may:

30 (1) Dispense a drug pursuant to a prescription issued

1 under section 3(a).

2 (2) Label a drug dispensed pursuant to the prescription
3 without the name of the individual for whom the drug is
4 intended if the prescription contains the words "expedited
5 partner therapy" or the letters "EPT."

6 (b) Information required when dispensing drug.--For each
7 drug dispensed, the pharmacist shall provide all of the
8 following information:

9 (1) Directions for use of the drug.

10 (2) Any side effects, adverse reactions or known
11 contraindications associated with the drug.

12 (c) Liability for dispensing drug.--A pharmacist or pharmacy
13 that in good faith dispenses a drug pursuant to a prescription
14 issued under section 3(a) for expedited partner therapy is not
15 liable for or subject to any of the following:

16 (1) Damages in any civil action.

17 (2) Prosecution in any criminal proceeding.

18 (3) Professional disciplinary action.

19 (d) Distribution of information.--This section does not
20 affect the authority of a pharmacist to distribute information
21 concerning a drug as required by Federal law.

22 Section 5. Effective date.

23 This act shall take effect in 90 days.