



Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

A Guide for Partners

Why am I getting this prescription or medicine?

One of your sex partners was diagnosed with and treated for chlamydia (pronounced klah-MIH-dee-ah), an infection that spreads during oral, anal or vaginal sex. A health care provider gave your sex partner a prescription or medicine to give to you so that you can be treated for chlamydia. You also need treatment so you do not develop serious health problems, reinfect your sex partner(s) or pass the infection to others.

What is chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that spreads during oral, anal or vaginal sex. **People who have chlamydia usually do not have symptoms.** If people do have symptoms, they can include pain or burning during urination and pus or discharge from the penis, vagina or anus. You can give chlamydia to others even if you do not have symptoms. If not treated, chlamydia can lead to serious health problems.

What is this medicine?

The medicine is an antibiotic called azithromycin. It will cure your chlamydia infection but will not treat other STIs. It is safe and almost 100% effective when taken correctly.

DO NOT take azithromycin if ANY of the following are true:

- You have lower stomach pain, cramps, unusual vaginal discharge with a bad odor, pain or bleeding during sex, or bleeding between periods.
- You have a burning sensation when you urinate, nausea, fever, or pain in your testicles.
- You are allergic to or have ever had a bad reaction, rash or allergy to any antibiotics, including azithromycin (Zithromax), erythromycin or clarithromycin (Biaxin).
- You have any serious, long-term health problems like kidney, heart or liver disease; have seizures; or are taking blood thinners.

If you have any of these problems, see a health care provider as soon as possible so that they can give you a medicine that cures chlamydia.

Why should I take this medicine?

If not treated, chlamydia can lead to serious health problems such as:

- Infertility — not being able to have children
- Ectopic pregnancy — having a pregnancy outside the uterus, which can be life threatening
- Infection in the testicles, which causes pain and fever
- Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) — a painful disease that involves the uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries

How should I take this medicine?

- Take the medicine by mouth. Do not share it with others. You need to take the full treatment for it to work.
- Take it on an empty stomach (at least one hour before eating or two hours after eating).
- If you throw up within an hour of taking the medicine, you will have to take another dose since the medicine may not have worked. To get more medicine, call the telephone number on the prescription, or visit a clinic or health care provider.

Will this dose of medicine cure all STIs?

No, this dose of medicine will cure ONLY chlamydia.

What should I do after taking this medicine?

- Do not have oral, anal or vaginal sex for at least seven days after you AND your sex partner(s) have been treated. The medicine takes seven days to work.
- See a doctor and get tested for other STIs, including HIV. It is important to get tested for other STIs since this dose of medicine will cure only chlamydia.

What if I do not think I have chlamydia?

You can have chlamydia even if you feel healthy and do not have symptoms. You can get tested to find out if you have chlamydia. However, you should still take the medicine now.

Have Safer Sex

STIs are common — millions of people get them each year. You can prevent most STIs by using a latex condom every time you have oral, anal or vaginal sex.

How do I know this medicine is really azithromycin? What if I have questions?

You can call the phone number on the medicine or prescription, or visit nyc.gov/health/ept for answers to your questions.

What if I am pregnant or think I may be pregnant?

Azithromycin is safe for pregnant people to take, and it can help keep the baby from getting infected during pregnancy and delivery. You should also see a health care provider as soon as possible and tell them that you were treated for chlamydia because your sex partner had it. You should also ask to be tested for other STIs because some can be passed on to your baby.

I received a prescription from my partner. What can I expect when I go to the pharmacy?

When you take the prescription to the pharmacy, the pharmacist may ask for your name, address, date of birth and form of payment (such as insurance, co-pay or out of pocket).

Does this medicine cause side effects?

It can. If you do have side effects, they may include diarrhea, nausea, stomachache, headache and throwing up. These are common and not dangerous.

If you throw up within an hour of taking azithromycin, you will have to take another dose since the medicine may not have worked. To get more medicine, call the telephone number on the prescription, or visit a clinic or health care provider.

Are any side effects dangerous?

It is rare, but some people do experience serious allergic reactions to azithromycin. These reactions can cause breathing trouble, chest tightness, closing of the throat, swelling of the lips or tongue, and hives (itchy bumps on the skin). If you experience any of these reactions after taking this medicine, immediately call **911** or go to the nearest emergency room.

What if I can't pay for the medicine?

Come to an NYC Sexual Health Clinic and tell them that your sex partner(s) has chlamydia. To find a clinic, call **311** or visit nyc.gov/health/clinics.

