

# Are we ready for Expedited Partner Therapy for Chlamydia in Australia?

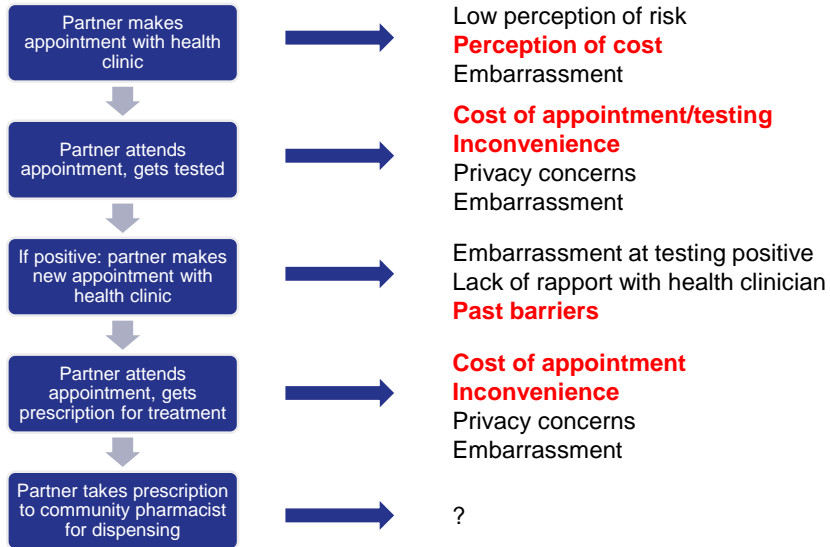
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## Importance of partner therapy

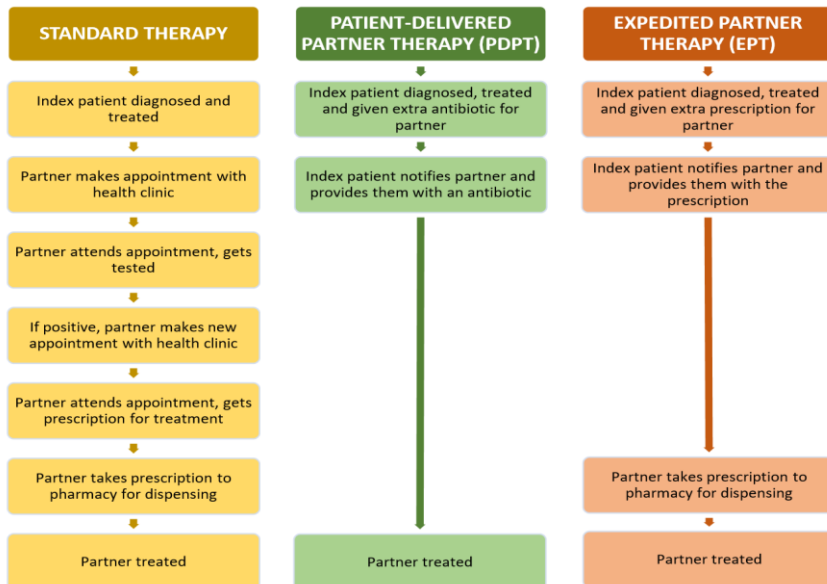
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- To treat positive partners
- To break cycle of further transmission and re-infection of index
  - 2010 Batteiger et al., longitudinal study over six years.
  - >19% of repeat infections due to resumption of sex with untreated partner
- To decrease the incidence of long terms health implications due to re-infection
  - 11,000 women in retrospective cohort
  - Two infections increased risk of ectopic pregnancy 4-fold and PID-related hospitalisation 5-fold
  - Three infections increased risk of ectopic pregnancy 11-fold and PID-related hospitalisation 10-fold

## Barriers to current partner therapy models



## Accelerated Partner Therapy (APT)



## Patient Delivered Partner Therapy evidence



- Louisiana: randomised controlled trial of PDPT vs standard therapy
- Index patients offered PDPT when compared with standard therapy were
  - MORE likely to offer treatment to partner (69.7% vs 49%)
  - LESS likely to have unprotected sex before treatment (8.4% vs 12.7%)
  - LESS likely to have unprotected sex after treatment (26.5% vs 34.6%)
  - LESS likely to have a follow-up positive test (13.8% vs 23.5%)
  - $P < 0.05$  for all

## Expedited Partner Therapy evidence



- Sweden: retrospective analysis of EPT study
  - rates of persistent/recurrent infection decreased (1.8% vs 10.2%)
- UK: Patient/partner satisfaction rates
  - 77% index patients satisfied
  - 87% partners satisfied
- UK: Time to treat
  - Significant reduction; methodology limitations

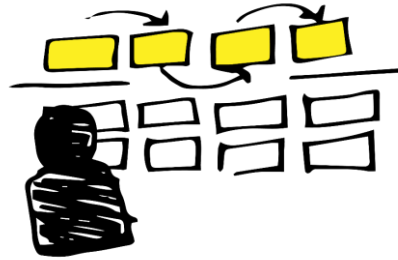
## Australian scene



- PDPT and EPT legal in NT (2014)
- EPT legal in Vic (2015)

BUT

- Guidelines based on international research
- No implementation or post evaluation studies to date
  - ? Reach
  - ? Usability
  - ? Effectiveness
  - ? Acceptability



## Opinions of EPT in Western Australia ?



Determine the barriers and facilitators to standard therapy and EPT for chlamydia, from the **perspectives of consumers**

Qualtrics survey developed and was live for 17 days for all UWA students to complete

Open and closed questions in 3 sections

- \* Demographics
- \* Standard therapy
- \* EPT

Completion time 2-3 minutes

## Consumer perspective results



180 participants, median age 22 years, 59% (n=107) female

- 32% (n=57) had prior experience with chlamydia testing
- 17% (n=10) had previous positive chlamydia test

|                  | Barriers   | Facilitators   |
|------------------|--|--|
| Standard therapy | <p><b>Taking time off 27% (n=52)</b></p> <p><b>Anonymity concerns 27% (n=53)</b></p> | <p>Comfort asking for test 54% (n=97)</p> <p>Other consultations 28% (n=54)</p>        |
| EPT              | <p><b>No diagnosis 33% (n=60)</b></p> <p><b>Privacy concerns 33% (n=60)</b></p>      | <p><b>Easy to access pharmacy 61% (n=109)</b></p> <p><b>Dr appt not 39% (n=61)</b></p> |

## Opinions of EPT in Western Australia?



Determine the barriers and facilitators to standard therapy and EPT and PDPT for chlamydia, from the **perspectives of sexual health prescribers and community pharmacists**

- Indepth face-to-face interviews with n=11 sexual health prescribers and n-12 community pharmacists in Metropolitan Perth
- 2018: Non-metropolitan WA: aboriginal and non-aboriginal consumers (index and partners); sexual health prescribers; community pharmacists.

## .....FUTURE RESEARCH



- Australian first - cluster randomised cross-over trial
- Measure the effectiveness and acceptability of the EPT model of care for partner treatment of chlamydia



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