


Expedited Partner Therapy

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Presentation Topics

- Overview of STD's
- What is EPT?
- Why is EPT Important?
- What is happening in Michigan?




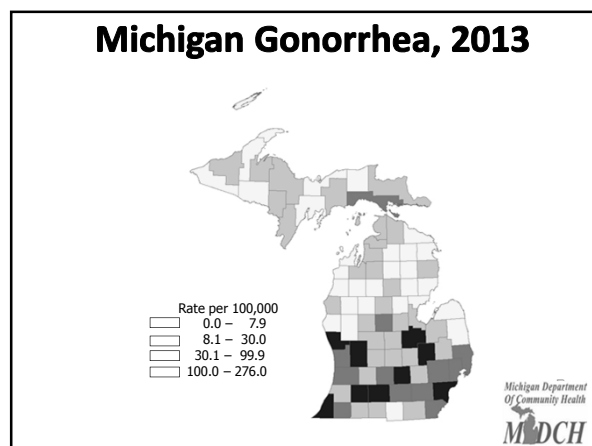
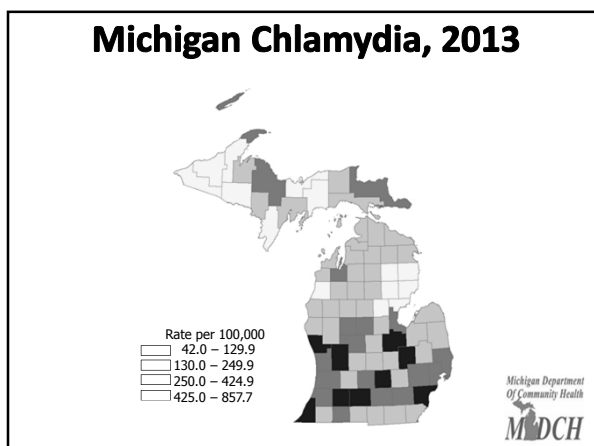
National Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- » Almost 20 million new cases of STDs every year
- » 50% among young people ages 15-24
- » 4 of the 5 leading reportable diseases in the United States are STDs
 - > Chlamydia
 - > Gonorrhea
 - > Syphilis
 - > HIV



STD's in Michigan

- » Cases reported in 2013:
 - > Chlamydia: 44,460
 - > Gonorrhea: 10,492
 - > Infectious Syphilis: 494
- » Areas with High Rate (CT > 500/100,000 & GC > 100):
 - > City of Detroit
 - > Berrien County
 - > Calhoun County
 - > Genesee County
 - > Ingham County
 - > Kalamazoo County
 - > Kent County
 - > Muskegon County
 - > Saginaw County

Why is STD Prevention so Important?

- » New STDs cost the U.S. health care system \$15.6 billion every year
- » Higher risk of HIV infection
- » Higher risk of certain cancers
- » STDs in Pregnancy: fetal death, disabilities, prematurity
- » Women are particularly vulnerable to STDs and their consequences
 - > Infertility
 - > Ectopic Pregnancy



Traditional Partner Management

- » Patient Referral
- » DIS Referral
- » Provider Referral

**All require partner to see a clinician and be evaluated*



What is Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)?

- » The practice of treating the sex partners of persons with STDs chlamydia and gonorrhea without an intervening medical evaluation
- » EPT allows health care professional to provide patients with antibiotics or prescriptions for their partners without requiring a visit by that partner
- » Treatment of the partner is critical to preventing further transmission and reinfection



Why is it important in Michigan?

- » There are approximately 60,000 new sexually transmitted infections reported annually in Michigan
- » With diminishing public health resources, there is simply not enough staff in local health to provide active partner services (PS) to each of these cases
- » Not all patients are willing to divulge the identity of their sexual partners
- » Not all partners are willing to be evaluated
- » Many individuals have challenges seeking medical service, including highly limited access to care

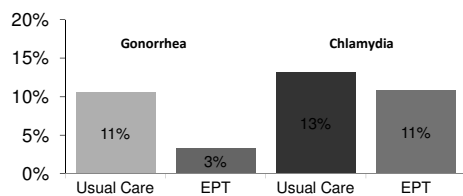


EPT Works!

- » EPT is a vital tool in the STD control tool box
- » Allows for treatment of partners who many not otherwise be treated
- » If no treatment of the partner, treatment of index patient not effective



Randomized Trial: EPT reduces GC and CT re-Infection rates



Golden M, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2005
Feb 17;352(7):676-85.



What are the Concerns?

- » What if the partner is allergic to the medication?
- » Is there concern regarding resistance?
- » What if the original client stockpiles the medicine?



EPT is SAFE!

- » Drugs are single dose therapy and highly effective with minimal risk of side effects
- » Allergies to these drugs are rare. Mild nausea is only reaction and rarely reported
- » CA has used EPT > 11 years. They had a dedicated hotline for reports of adverse reactions; it was recently shut down as there were zero reports in 11 years
- » The fear of GC resistance has increased the need for EPT – getting cases treated reduces threat of resistance
- » Experts state that there is no risk of EPT causing population level resistance as the drugs are also used to treat many other conditions
- » There is no evidence of clients ‘holding’ medicine
- » There have been reductions in reinfection



CDC’s Position on EPT for GC

- » *“If a heterosexual partner of a patient cannot be linked to evaluation and treatment in a timely fashion, then expedited partner therapy should be considered, using oral combination antimicrobial therapy for gonorrhea (cefixime 400 mg and azithromycin 1 g) delivered to the partner by the patient, a disease investigation specialist, or through a collaborating pharmacy.”*

MMWR August 2012



Organizations That Support EPT

Nationally

- » U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- » American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- » American Bar Association
- » American Medical Association (AMA)
- » Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
- » American Academy of Pediatrics

Michigan

- » Michigan Department of Community Health
- » Michigan Association for Local Public Health
- » Michigan State Medical Society
- » Michigan Pharmacists Association
- » Michigan Chapter of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists



EPT Success Stories

- » In 2001, California was the first state to authorize EPT
 - > Nearly half of health care professionals report using EPT. Their treatment rate with EPT is 80%.
 - > In 11 years of use, no adverse effects have been reported.
- » In Washington state, currently one-third of heterosexuals with chlamydia or gonorrhea receive EPT for their partners



In Summary

- » EPT decreases persistent and recurrent STD infections.
- » More likely to report partner treated than if partner referred
- » Reducing infection is particularly important in women because of the risk of PID and its sequelae
- » EPT is at least equivalent and probably more efficacious than standard partner therapy
- » Cost-saving when compared to standard therapy when sequelae included



No Matter What.....

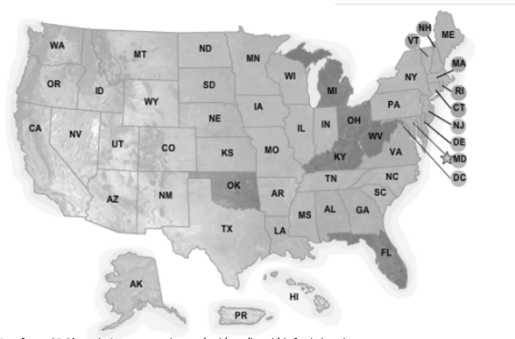
EPT is Better than NO Treatment!!



What is Michigan Doing about EPT??



We are LATE to the Game!



*Map from CDC's website: www.cdc.gov/std/ept/legal/default.html

Challenges

- » Legislature that doesn't have knowledge of the STD program....and STD's are not something they want to talk about
- » Changing statute requires a champion and strong coalition
- » Program staff with limited experience in policy work



EPT Bill.....take one

- » February, 2012: We have our champion!
 - > Dr. Harold Phillips submits a resolution to the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) Public Health Subcommittee
- » MSMS Coalition is formed
 - > House sponsor (Vice Chair of Health Policy), MDCH (program, legal, legislative office), Michigan Pharmacy Association, Michigan Association for Local Public Health
- » House Bill 5934
 - > Health Policy hearing
 - + Blind sided!
 - > Election.....Jame duck.....dead



EPT Bill.....take two

- » March, 2013: Re-group
 - > Recognize what failed in take one
 - > Expand coalition to include Michigan ACOG, Trial Lawyers
 - > Expand the role of the National Coalition of STD Directors
 - + Briefing days (May and December, 2013)
- » New Sponsor: House Bill 4376
 - > New lessons learned
- » On to the Senate
 - > Politics impacting public health



Now What? Definitely not Sitting Around

- » Educating
 - > Meeting with Senators
 - > Addressing concerns with facts/experience
- » Lobbying
 - > MSMS, Michigan ACOG
 - > National partners



How can you help?

» Contact your Senator!



Thank you!

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