



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 280
[2009 Senate Bill 460]

Expedited Partner Therapy

2009 Wisconsin Act 280 allows a physician, physician assistant, or certified advanced practice nurse prescriber (APNP) to provide expedited partner therapy. The term “expedited partner therapy” is defined as prescribing, dispensing, or furnishing to a patient an antimicrobial drug to be used by a sexual partner of the patient to treat a chlamydial infection, gonorrhea, or trichomoniasis without physical examination of the sexual partner. The physician, physician assistant, or APNP may provide this therapy if the patient is diagnosed as infected with one of these conditions and the patient has had sexual contact with a sexual partner during which one of the conditions may have been transmitted to or from the sexual partner.

The physician, physician assistant, or APNP must attempt to obtain the name of the patient’s sexual partner. A prescription order for an antimicrobial drug under the Act must include the name and address of the patient’s sexual partner, if known. If the physician, physician assistant, or APNP is unable to obtain the name of the patient’s sexual partner, the prescription order and the prescription label must include the words “expedited partner therapy” or the letters “EPT”.

The Act requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to prepare and keep current an information sheet to be distributed to a patient by a physician, physician assistant, or APNP providing expedited partner therapy. The information sheet must include information about sexually transmitted diseases and their treatment and about the risk of drug allergies. It must also include a statement advising a person with questions about the information to contact his or her physician, pharmacist, or local health department. The physician, physician assistant, or APNP must provide the patient with a copy of the information sheet and request that he or she give it to the person with whom the patient had sexual contact.

A pharmacist may, upon the prescription order of a practitioner providing expedited partner therapy that complies with the statutory requirements, dispense an antimicrobial drug as a course of therapy for treatment of chlamydial infections, gonorrhea, or trichomoniasis to the practitioner’s patient or a person with whom the patient has had sexual contact for use by the latter person. The pharmacist

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

must provide a consultation in accordance with rules promulgated by the Pharmacy Examining Board (PEB) for the dispensing of a prescription to the person to whom the antimicrobial drug is dispensed. A pharmacist providing this consultation must ask whether the person for whom the antimicrobial drug has been prescribed is allergic to the drug and advise that the person must discontinue use of the drug if he or she is allergic to or develops signs of an allergic reaction to the drug.

A physician, physician assistant, APNP, or pharmacist is immune from civil liability for injury to or the death of a person who takes any antimicrobial drug under these statutes and if the expedited partner therapy is provided as specified under the statutes. This immunity does not apply to acts or omissions involving reckless, wanton, or intentional misconduct.

Effective date: The Act takes effect on May 26, 2010.

Prepared by: Richard Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney

May 20, 2010

RS:jb;jal