



HIV/STD PARTNER SERVICES:

THE HEALTH PROVIDER'S ROLE

WHAT ARE YOUR LEGAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS A PROVIDER?

Providers must:

- Report HIV, AIDS, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, and chancroid to their local reporting authority under Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81, Subchapter C. Find the rules governing reporting under Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapter 97.
- Report using guidance found at dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/reporting.
- Report primary and secondary syphilis and acute HIV diagnoses to their local reporting authority by telephone within one working day.
- Report other STDs, including HIV, within seven working days.

DISEASE REPORTING RESOURCES:

- DSHS HIV/STD Program Disease Reporting:
dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/reporting
- DSHS HIV/STD Program EPT:
dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/ept
- Texas Statutes (Health and Safety Code):
statutes.capitol.texas.gov
- Texas Administrative Code:
sos.state.tx.us/tac



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Texas Department of State
Health Services

For HIV/STD questions, call
737-255-4300

or visit
dshs.texas.gov/hivstd

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WHAT ARE PARTNER SERVICES?

Partner services support people with HIV or AIDS, syphilis, gonorrhea, or chlamydia and their sex and needle-sharing partners. Partner services can:

- Confidentially identify persons with HIV or STD infection,
- Notify partners of possible exposure, and
- Provide diagnosed patients and their partners with a range of medical, prevention, and psychosocial services including testing and treatment for their partner.

WHY PARTNER SERVICES?

- Decreases HIV and STD incidence
- Prevents transmission
- Avoids re-infection
- Promotes healthy behavior changes that reduce the likelihood of infection

WHAT IS PARTNER NOTIFICATION?

- Partner notification is the process of contacting persons potentially exposed to HIV or other STDs through sex or shared needles.
- Patients, healthcare providers, or a Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) can do partner notification. DIS are trained public health professionals.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF DIS PARTNER NOTIFICATION?

- When DIS notify partners, they are much more likely come in for treatment.
- DIS and other trained health department personnel use discretion to notify persons at risk, not revealing anything about the original patient. DIS follow all state and federal privacy laws.
- DIS receive training in conflict resolution to avoid potentially emotional or even violent confrontations when notifying partners.
- DIS can coach patients on how to approach any discussion with their partner(s). Patients can decide which partner(s) they will inform and which partner(s) DIS will locate and notify.
- DIS will discuss the infection, treatment, and prevention of STDs and provide referrals for additional services.

WHAT IS EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY?

- Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is the treatment of partner(s) of patients diagnosed with certain STDs without a test or exam. This involves the client delivery of oral medications or prescriptions to their sexual partner(s).
- The CDC defines EPT as the standard of care for the treatment of gonorrhea and chlamydia. DSHS recommends providers routinely offer EPT to clients to promote partner treatment.
- EPT facilitates prompt partner treatment of certain STDs which prevents re-infection and reduces transmission to other sex partners.
- EPT is an effective option for sex partners who have not received a medical exam.

