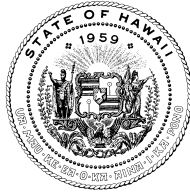


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GOVERNOR

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January 2014

EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY PRESCRIPTIONS

Dear Hawaii Pharmacies:

On July 1, 2013, Governor Abercrombie signed SB 655, SD2, HD2, CD1 into law (Act 250, SLH 2013).

This new law allows health professionals, subject to certain requirements, to treat the partners of patients diagnosed as having certain sexually transmitted diseases by dispensing or prescribing medication to the partners without examining the partners. The language in this new law also allows pharmacists to fill a prescription and dispense the antibiotic where a specific patient's name is not indicated but written as "Expedited Partner Therapy" or "EPT".

If a customer wishes to amend the "Expedited Partner Therapy" or "EPT" prescription by naming a specific individual, the pharmacist must first obtain authorization from the prescriber before issuing a new prescription with the specific patient's name.

Also covered under the new law are prescriptions that are electronically transmitted to the pharmacy and prescriptions written by an "out-of-state practitioner".

This new law also included pharmacists under the definition of "Health professional" and requires that the "Health professional" that dispenses or prescribe expedited partner antibiotic therapy **distribute** an information sheet developed by the Hawaii State Department of Health ("DOH"), to the patient.

The new law and the information sheets are available on the DOH web page at <http://health.hawaii.gov/std-aids/providers/ept-expedited-partner-therapy/>.

If you have any questions pertaining to the "Expedited Partner Therapy" or "EPT" **prescriptions**, you may call the DOH, Food and Drug Branch at 586-4725.

If you have any questions pertaining to the **information sheets**, you may call the DOH, STD/AIDS Prevention Branch at 733-9281.

Your anticipated cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.