



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
HEALTH ALERT NETWORK
Update



TO: Primary Care Providers, Emergency Room, Infectious Disease, Public Health

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RE: STD Public Health Update: Legislative Bill 62 on Expedited Treatment for Trichomoniasis

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The 2019 Nebraska legislature passed LB 62 which authorizes health care providers to provide “expedited partner therapy (EPT)” to the partners of their patients diagnosed with trichomoniasis (trich). EPT was previously authorized for the partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia and gonorrhea¹. EPT enables providers to prescribe or provide antibiotic treatment to the patient’s partner(s) at the time the patient is seen/treated without a physician’s visit for the partner(s). Trich is often passed back and forth between partners. EPT is intended to prevent reinfection by insuring that all potentially infected partners are treated simultaneously.

Treatment: Trichomoniasis can be cured with a single dose of prescription antibiotic medication. CDC treatment recommendation for trich is: Metronidazole 2g orally in a single dose OR Tinidazole 2g orally in a single dose. Patients with trich can be re-infected. According to the CDC about 1 in 5 people experience reinfections again within 3 months of completing treatment.

Trichomoniasis is not a reportable disease. Data on the epidemiology of trichomonas nationally is derived from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Study (NHANES). NHANES data during 2013–2014 indicated prevalence of *T. vaginalis* in urine specimens obtained from adult participants aged 18–59 years was 0.5% among males and 1.8% among females; highest prevalences were observed among non-Hispanic Black males (4.2%) and females (8.9%)².

CDC Treatment Guidelines Mobile App:

The CDC has a free and invaluable treatment resource available through your smart devices. Search in the app store under “CDC STD Tx Guide.” This app provides health care providers up-to-date treatment recommendations for STDs. STD Tx Guide combines information from the STD Treatment Guidelines as well as MMWR updates.

References:

1. Nebraska Statute 71-503.02 (<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=71-503.02>)
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/stats17/other.htm#trich>