



Wyoming State Board of Nursing

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OPINION: DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT OF STDs

APPROVED DATE: April 9, 2014

REVIEWED DATE: July 2016

REVISED DATE: April 1, 2014

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:

Practice & Education Committee

An advisory opinion adopted by WSBN is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion of WSBN regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the functions of nursing. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and/or decrease risk.

Within the Scope of Practice/Role of _X_AP RN _X_RN _LPN _CNA

ADVISORY OPINION

DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (STDs)

In accordance with Wyo. Stat. 33-21-122(c)(iii) of the Wyoming Nursing Practice Act (NPA), the Wyoming State Board of Nursing (WSBN) has approved the following Advisory Opinion on the Diagnosis and Treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Expedited Partner Therapy

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is “the practice of treating the sex partners of persons with STDs without an intervening medical evaluation or professional prevention counseling.” (Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 2006).

Further, the CDC provides this additional information regarding EPT:

“Effective clinical management of patients with treatable sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) requires treatment of the patients’ current sex partners to prevent reinfection and curtail further transmission. The standard approach to partner treatment has included clinical evaluation in a health care setting, with partner notification accomplished by the index patient, by the provider or an agent of the provider, or a combination of these methods. Provider-assisted referral is considered the optimal strategy for partner treatment, but is not available to most patients with gonorrhea or chlamydial infection because of resource limitations. The usual alternative is to advise patients to refer their partners for treatment.”

As of January 2014, no specific state statutes or rules exist in Wyoming directly related to EPT. The Wyoming Department of Health has obtained letters of support from the Wyoming State Health Officer,

Wyoming Board of Medicine, Wyoming Department of Health and Human Services, and the Wyoming

State Pharmacist to support EPT.

Pursuant to Wyo. Stat. §35-4-131:

- (a) Persons under eighteen (18) years of age may give legal consent for examination and treatment for any sexually transmitted disease infection.
- (b) For the protection of public health, a physician, health officer or other person or facility providing health care in accordance with state or federal law shall for any individual regardless of age, sex, race or color:
 - (i) If reasonably suspected of being infected with any sexually transmitted disease, administer, refer for or recommend appropriate and adequate treatment;
 - (ii) If exposed to any sexually transmitted disease, recommend or offer treatment.
- (c) Physical examination and treatment by a licensed physician or other qualified health care provider of a person under eighteen (18) years of age consenting to examination or treatment is not an assault or an assault and battery upon that person.

WSBN has determined that it is within the scope of practice of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) with prescriptive authority to prescribe EPT to their patients' partner(s) with suspected STDs.

Additionally, it is within the scope of practice of the registered nurse (RN) in the Public Health setting to follow the protocol for EPT through the use of standing guidelines and orders that the county health officer has approved.

STD Clinics

It is within the scope of practice of the RN in the Public Health setting to follow the protocol for STD clinic services through the use of standing guidelines and orders that the county health officer has approved.

REFERENCES

American Bar Association resolution supporting removal of legal barriers to the provision of EPT. (August 15, 2008).

American Medical Association Update on Expedited Partner Therapy (Patient-delivered Partner Therapy). (June 2006).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2010 STD Treatment Guidelines, Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2010/default.htm>.

Wyoming Department of Health STD Program, Retrieved from <http://www.health.wyo.gov/phsd/std/index.html>.