

**WASHINGTON STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES RESOLUTION**

Subject: Patient-delivered partner therapy for curable sexually transmitted infections

WHEREAS, many sex partners of persons diagnosed with curable sexually transmitted infections (STI) are not examined and treated; and

WHEREAS, recent studies show that less than one in five providers treating persons for gonorrhea or chlamydia infection know whether all of their patient's partners have been treated; and

WHEREAS, failure to treat infected partners often leads to reinfection of original patients and contributes to further spread of STI; and

WHEREAS, due to inadequate resources, most public health departments in Washington State cannot contact all persons reported with curable STI to ensure their partners' treatment; and

WHEREAS, many clinicians and agencies now give patients with gonorrhea or sexually transmitted chlamydia the diagnosis-appropriate medications to deliver to their sex partners, and this practice is called patient-delivered partner therapy or PDPT; and

WHEREAS, randomized controlled trials among heterosexuals have demonstrated that PDPT is safe, increases the proportion of sex partners that are treated, and decreases the index patients' risk of being reinfected; and

WHEREAS, many physicians employ PDPT at least some of the time; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Health recommends that physicians treating patients for gonorrhea or chlamydial infection offer those patients medication for their sex partners if treatment is not otherwise assured;

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the WSMA endorse the current Washington State Department of Health recommendations regarding PDPT: "the provider should inform the patient that it would be best to have all partners exposed during the previous 60 days come into a clinic for examination, testing and treatment. However, if treatment is not otherwise assured, the patient should be provided antibiotics for their partners;"² and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the WSMA encourage physicians in Washington State to offer the option of PDPT to appropriate patients when treating them for gonorrhea or chlamydial infection if treatment of their sex partners is not otherwise assured; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the WSMA encourage continued research on innovative strategies for STI control, particularly in patients for whom PDPT is not currently a well-accepted strategy; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the WSMA's AMA Delegation introduce a resolution to the AMA House of Delegates calling for the AMA to identify opportunities for increased use of PDPT, analyze existing and potential barriers to PDPT use, and encourage use of PDPT in all appropriate settings, and further that AMA establish and adopt model guidelines for PDPT implementation; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the WSMA explore legal protection and Medical Quality Assurance Commission regulatory protection for practitioners who participate in Patient-Delivered Partner Therapy (PDPT).