

**Department Of Health
Health Professions Quality Assurance Division
Washington State
Medical Quality Assurance Commission
Policy Statement**

Title:	Treating Partners of Patients with Sexually Transmitted Chlamydia and Gonorrhea	Number: MD2003-04
Reference:		
Contact:	Beverly Thomas or George Heye, MD	
Effective Date:	November 21, 2003	
Supersedes		
Approved		
	Hampton Irwin, MD Chair	

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission recognizes that the adequate treatment of sexually transmitted chlamydia and gonorrhea infections has always been a difficult public health issue. When chlamydia and gonorrhea are identified in a patient the adequate treatment and prevention of recurrence in the patient often depends on the treatment of the partner or partners who may not be available or agreeable to direct examination.

The Medical Commission recognizes that it is a common practice for health care practitioners to provide antibiotics for the partner(s) without prior examination. While this is not ideal in terms of the diagnosis and control of chlamydia and gonorrhea, the Medical Commission recognizes that this is often the only reasonable way to access and treat the partner(s) and impact the personal and public health risks of continued, or additional, chlamydial and gonorrheal infections.

The Medical Commission urges practitioners to use all reasonable efforts to assure that appropriate information and advice is made available to the absent treated third party or parties.