



## **Treatment Fact Sheet for Sex Partners of Persons with Chlamydia**

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- Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from having sex (oral, vaginal or anal) with a person who already has it. You have been exposed to chlamydia.
- Chlamydia is easily treated with the medicine azithromycin (also known as Zithromax®).
- Your partner may have given you azithromycin (pills) or a prescription for azithromycin. This medicine was given to your partner by his/her doctor to treat you. If your partner gave you a prescription, you can take it to a pharmacy to have it filled. The cost of this medicine may range from \$2-\$10.
- For free or low-cost STD treatment services in your area, call 2-1-1 toll-free.

### **Symptoms of Chlamydia:**

Most people infected with chlamydia DO NOT have symptoms. If you do have symptoms they may include the following:

- Males can have painful urination, pain in the testicles or pain in the lower part of the belly.
- Females can have abnormal vaginal discharge, painful urination, pain when having sex or vaginal bleeding between periods.
- Remember, most people with chlamydia don't have symptoms. You can have and spread it without ever feeling anything is wrong.

**DO NOT TAKE** the medicine without first seeing a doctor if you:

- Are female and have lower belly pain, pain during sex, vomiting or fever.
- Are male and have a fever or pain or swelling in the testicles.
- Have ever had a bad reaction, rash, breathing problems or allergic reaction after taking azithromycin or other antibiotics. **Please check with your doctor before taking azithromycin if you have allergies to antibiotics.**
- Have a serious long-term illness, such as kidney, heart or liver disease.
- Are taking other prescription medicine, including medicine for diabetes.
- It is okay to take this medicine with non-prescription pain or cold medicines, vitamins and birth control pills.

**If any of these are true, or you have any questions, DO NOT take azithromycin and talk to your doctor as soon as possible to find the best treatment.**

### **How to Take this Medicine:**

- You have 4 pills of azithromycin. Take all 4 pills with water at the same time.
- You need to take all 4 pills to treat chlamydia.
- You can take these pills with or without food. Taking the pills with food may prevent an upset stomach.
- Do NOT take antacids (such as Tums, Rolaids or Maalox) for 1 hour before or 2 hours after taking the pills.
- Do not share or give the pills to anyone else.

*(Adapted from a fact sheet created by the Arizona Department of Health Services STD Program (Revised 6/2009).*

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<p><b>Allergic Reactions:</b> These reactions are very rare but may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Problems breathing and/or tightness in the chest</li><li>• Closing of the throat</li><li>• Swelling of lips or tongue</li><li>• Hives (itchy bumps on skin)</li></ul> <p><b>If you experience any of these allergic reactions call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room immediately!</b></p>	<p><b>Side Effects:</b> Most people have no side effects, but some may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A slightly upset stomach</li><li>• Diarrhea</li><li>• Dizziness</li><li>• Vaginal yeast infection</li></ul> <p><b>These side effects are usually not serious.</b></p>
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## **Things to remember:**

- The best way to treat chlamydia is to go to your own doctor or clinic. If you can't get to a doctor in the next 1-2 days, you should take the azithromycin.
- You can get very sick if you don't get treated. Without treatment, chlamydia can cause severe damage to sex organs for both females and males. You may not be able to have children.
- If you are pregnant, it is safe to take the azithromycin. Be sure to see your doctor for a full check-up. Tell the doctor you may be pregnant, that you have been exposed to chlamydia and that you have taken this medicine.
- If don't take the medicine, you should see a doctor as soon as possible. See a doctor as soon as you can to get tested for other STDs. It is common for people to have more than one STD at the same time. Azithromycin will not cure other STDs. Don't have sex for 7 days after you have taken the pills. If you have sex before 7 days are up, you and your partner could re-infect each other. Using a condom may help prevent re-infection, but not having sex is safest.
- If you have other sex partners, tell them that you are getting treated for chlamydia. Tell them to call 2-1-1 to find out where they can get treated.
- People who get chlamydia once can get it again. It is a good idea to get tested for all STDs 3months from now to be sure you did not get another STD.
- Antibiotics may make birth control pills less effective in preventing pregnancy. Use condoms for at least two weeks after taking azithromycin to prevent pregnancy.

*Local provider contact information here*

If you have any questions, please contact your medical provider or contact the Texas Department of Health Services (DSHS) HIV/STD Program at 512-533-3000 or [www.dshs.state.tx.us/hivstd/](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/hivstd/)

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