

Resolution 5
Mississippi Nurses' Association
106th House of Delegates
Biloxi Convention Center
Biloxi, MS

Introduced by: **Elizabeth Julyn Overstreet, DNP, APRN, NP-C**
 on behalf of the MNA District 32

RESOLUTION: **Support Removal of Barriers to Facilitate the Use of Expedited**
 Partner Therapy (EPT) in the Management of Sexually
 Transmitted Infections (STI) in Mississippi

WHEREAS, Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are committed to the promotion of health and safety issues of the public; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include working for the improvement of health standards (Article 1; Section 2.A.); and

WHEREAS, the functions of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include representing nurses and serving as their state spokesperson with allied professional, community, governmental groups, and with the public (Article 1; Section 3.L.); and

WHEREAS, EPT is defined as the practice of treating the sex partners of persons with STIs without a direct medical evaluation and in accordance to CDC (Centers for Disease Control) EPT guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the formation of position statements, resolutions, bills and/or laws supporting EPT would remove barriers to EPT implementation by exempting Mississippi's nurses from legal liability when implementing EPT in accordance with guidelines, which would increase EPT use and lower STI rates; and

WHEREAS, in August 2006, the CDC recommended EPT as an evidenced-based option to manage chlamydial infection and gonorrhea while putting forth a toolkit including sample legislative language with specific language from nine states who as of 2010 had authorized EPT to treat STIs, and protected physicians or other healthcare practitioners from legal liability. (<https://www.cdc.gov/std/ept/legal/EPT-toolkit-complete.pdf>); and

WHEREAS, since the CDCs 2006 recommendation, other organizations have supported EPT, including the American Bar Association, the American Medical Association, the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; and

Resolution 5, continued

WHEREAS, based on a 2015 DNP Scholarly Project Research Study, providers in a Mississippi delta county reported the following barriers as an essential and/or highest priority barrier to their implementation of EPT in the management of STIs: Legal liability - 86.4% (n=19), Non-existent position statements from professional organization(s) - 59.1% (n=13), Non-existent, state issued guidelines in Mississippi - 72.7% (n=12) & Non-existent guidelines by licensure board(s) - 72.8% (n=16).

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to support the removal of barriers to facilitate the use of Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) in the Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) in Mississippi through the formation of position statements and/or resolutions among Mississippi's professional organizations, licensing boards, and state regulatory agencies and the formation of appropriate bills and/or statutes.