



**KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

PROJECT NAME: Increasing the Use of Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
SEMESTER: Spring/Summer 2019
PRECEPTOR: Nirali Bora/April Hight

DESCRIPTION: Expedited partner therapy (EPT) is a clinical practice of treating the sex partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea by providing prescriptions or medications to the patient to take to his/her partner without the health care provider first examining the partner. Legislation was passed in Michigan in 2015 to authorize the use of EPT for chlamydia and gonorrhea; however, EPT is still not a common practice in most clinical sites as many providers remain unaware of legislative changes and/or unfamiliar with the practice. The purpose of this internship will be to work with local primary care offices, urgent cares, and emergency departments to increase their use of EPT to treat new chlamydia and gonorrhea cases.

IMPORTANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH: The numbers of cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis rose for the fourth consecutive year in 2017. To quell the rising rates of STI infection, it is necessary to treat all newly infected and exposed persons as soon as possible. Expanded utilization of EPT will allow medical providers to treat exposed persons more quickly and efficiently.

APPLICABLE ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES:

- Inform, educate, and empower
- Mobilize community partnerships
- Assure a competent workforce

PROJECT DELIVERABLES:

- The student will conduct research to better understand what factors promote increased use of EPT in clinical settings
- The student will develop an educational intervention for use in clinical sites to encourage the use of EPT
- The student will present the activities of their internship at the Student Research Day scheduled at the end of the project period.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Students applying for this internship must be enrolled in a bachelor's or master's degree program. Computer proficiency required.

SKILLS: The student selected for this internship opportunity should expect to develop public health skills and competencies in the following categories:

- Speak effectively to individuals/groups
- Identify problems and needs
- Set priorities
- Summarize/write clearly and concisely
- Handle many tasks at once
- Conduct health promotion activities
- Identify appropriate information sources