

**CENTER FOR DISEASE PREVENTION & CONTROL**

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**Public Health**  
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## Trichomoniasis Treatment Information Sheet Important Information About **Your** Health

(This Treatment Information Sheet is intended for sex partners of persons with Trichomoniasis)

### **Why am I getting this medicine (Metronidazole)?**

Your sex partner has been treated for trichomoniasis, a curable sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from sexual intercourse or the genital area contact with an infected sex partner. You may have been exposed to trichomoniasis infection.

Trichomoniasis is easily treated with the medicine metronidazole (also known as Flagyl). People with trichomoniasis may not know they have it because they have no signs or symptoms. Your sex partner has given you metronidazole (pill) medicine or a prescription for metronidazole medicine. This medicine or prescription was given to your sex partner by a doctor or other medical provider to treat YOU.

### **What is Trichomoniasis and what are the symptoms?**

Trichomoniasis is caused by a parasite (germ) called *Trichomoniasis vaginalis*. It is a curable sexually transmitted infection (STI) that you can get from having sex with a person who already has it. Many people with trichomoniasis do not know they have it because they have no symptoms and feel fine. Some people may notice symptoms.

### **Symptoms of Trichomoniasis:**

Most people DO NOT experience or notice any signs or symptoms at all.

People who have male genitals – may temporarily have an irritation inside the penis, mild discharge, or slight burning after urination or ejaculation.

People who have female genitals – may have a frothy, yellow-green vaginal discharge with a strong odor. The infection also may cause discomfort during sex and urination (peeing), as well as irritation and itching of the female genital area. In rare cases, lower abdominal (belly) pain can occur. Symptoms usually appear within 5 to 28 days of exposure.

### **Will this medicine cure all STIs?**

No, your medicine will not cure all STIs, but it will treat trichomoniasis, which is the same STI that your partner was treated for. If you have STI symptoms, call your health care provider or the Rockland County Department of Health (RCDOH) Sexual Health Clinic at **845-364-3771**.

## How can I protect myself?

There are a few things that you can do to protect yourself from getting chlamydia or other STIs:

- 1) **Get tested for other STDs.** Even though the medicine that you have cures chlamydia, it does not cure all other STDs. Call the RCDOH Sexual health clinic at (845) 364-3771 or your health care provider to find out how to get tested for other STIs, including HIV.
- 2) **Take the medicine.** It is important to finish all the pills prescribed. If chlamydia is not treated, it can lead to serious health risks.
- 3) **Wait to have sex.** After you and your partner(s) each take the medicine, wait at least 7 days before you have any sex. This gives the medicine time to work. If you have sex too soon, you may re-infect yourself or your partner(s).
- 4) **Use a condom or dental dam.** When used correctly, latex or polyurethane condoms and dental dams can greatly reduce the risk of getting STIs, including chlamydia. If you are infected with HIV, or may have been exposed to HIV, you should contact your health care provider for a complete exam, including testing for STIs and HIV.

## You received a prescription for EPT for Metronidazole. Please read below instructions BEFORE to taking METRONIDAZOLE:

### SAFETY OF METRONIDAZOLE:

Metronidazole is a very safe antibiotic. However, **DO NOT take it if any of the following are true:**

- You are pregnant.
- You have female genitalia and have lower belly pain, pain during sex, vomiting or fever.
- You have male genitalia and have pain or swelling in the testicles or fever.
- You have had a bad reaction, rash, breathing problems, or allergic reaction after taking metronidazole (Flagyl).
- You have a serious long-term illness, such as kidney, heart or liver disease.
- If you are currently taking another prescription medication, including medicine for diabetes, consult your pharmacist before taking the medication to ask about drug interactions.
- If any of these circumstances exist, or if you are not sure, do not take the metronidazole. Instead, you should talk to your doctor or medical provider as soon as possible. Your doctor or medical provider will find the best treatment for you.

### WARNINGS:

- If you are pregnant or think you could be pregnant, do not take this medication and seek medical evaluation before taking the medicine.

### DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING METRONIDAZOLE:

- Take the medicine by mouth. Do not share it with others.
- DO take the pill given to you by mouth with a full glass of water and with food. By taking the pills with food, you are less likely to get an upset stomach or vomit and the medicine will work better in your body. You need to take all of the medicine you were given to be cured.
- DO NOT give this medicine to others. It is intended for sex partners of persons who have trichomoniasis.

### SIDE EFFECTS OF METRONIDAZOLE:

Possible side effects of taking this medication include:

- Upset stomach
- Headache

- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Change in taste sensation or dry mouth

These are well-known side effects and are not serious. Very few people experience any of these problems.

**ALLERGIC REACTIONS:**

Allergic reactions are rare. If you have ever had a bad allergic reaction, rash, breathing problems or other allergic reactions with metronidazole (Flagyl) or other antibiotics, consult your doctor, medical provider or pharmacist before taking this medicine.

Possible serious allergic reactions include:

- Difficulty breathing/tightness in the chest
- Closing of your throat
- Swelling of your lips or tongue
- Hives (bumps or welts on your skin that itch intensely)

**\*\*If you experience any of these allergic reactions, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room immediately!\*\***

**RESUMING SEXUAL ACTIVITY**

Avoid sex until you and your partner have taken your medication and neither of you has any more symptoms. If you have any questions about metronidazole (Flagyl) or trichomoniasis, please call us at RCDOH Sexual Health Clinic at 845-364-3771.

**TO INFORM OTHER SEX PARTNERS OF YOUR POSSIBLE CONDITION:**

- Work with us at the Rockland County Department of Health (RCDOH) Sexual Health Clinic to inform your sex partners of possible exposure to an infection, so that they may also be properly tested and/or treated. Call us at 845-364-3771.
- **If you have access to the internet, and want to send your sex partners an anonymous or confidential message:** [www.tellyourpartner.org](http://www.tellyourpartner.org)