

(3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY PILOT PROGRAM.

(B) THERE IS AN EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY PILOT PROGRAM IN THE BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY TO THE PARTNER OF A PATIENT DIAGNOSED WITH A SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION IN ORDER TO CONTAIN THE INFECTION AND STOP THE FURTHER SPREAD OF IT.

(D) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, IN A PUBLIC HEALTH CLINIC ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSIONER IN BALTIMORE CITY, THE FOLLOWING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS MAY ~~PRESCRIBE, DISPENSE,~~ DISPENSE OR OTHERWISE PROVIDE ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY TO ANY SEXUAL PARTNER OF A PATIENT DIAGNOSED WITH CHLAMYDIA OR GONORRHEA WITHOUT MAKING A PERSONAL PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PATIENT'S PARTNER:

(1) A PHYSICIAN LICENSED UNDER TITLE 14 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE;

(2) A CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 8-508 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE; AND

(3) AN AUTHORIZED PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 15-302.2 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.

(E) ~~THE SECRETARY AND THE COMMISSIONER JOINTLY~~ SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

~~(F) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A LICENSED PHYSICIAN, CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER, LICENSED REGISTERED NURSE, LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, OR CERTIFIED PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT MAY NOT BE HELD CIVILLY LIABLE FOR ANY ACT OR OMISSION PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION IF:~~

~~(1) THE ACT OR OMISSION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE GROSS NEGLIGENCE;~~

~~(2) THE PRESCRIPTION ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY IS PROVIDED TO THE PATIENT'S PARTNER WITHOUT FEE OR OTHER COMPENSATION FROM THE PATIENT'S PARTNER; OR~~