AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; relating to the treatment of
sexually transmitted diseases; allowing for the use of expedited partner
therapy.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:
Section 1. (a) As used in this section:
(1) "Department" means the department of health and environment.
(2) "Expedited partner therapy" means to prescribe, administer,
dispense or otherwise provide antimicrobial drugs to a sexual partner of a
patient clinically diagnosed by a healthcare provider as infected with a
sexually transmitted disease without a physical examination of such sexual
partner.
(3) "Healthcare provider" means a person licensed by the state board
of healing arts to practice medicine and surgery, an advanced practice
registered nurse licensed under the Kansas nurse practice act who has
authority to prescribe drugs in accordance with a written protocol with a
responsible physician under K.S.A. 65-1130, and amendments thereto, or a
physician assistant licensed under the physician assistant licensure act who
has authority to prescribe drugs in accordance with a written protocol with
a responsible physician under K.S.A. 65-28a08, and amendments thereto.
(4) "Pharmacist" means a person licensed by the state board of
pharmacy to practice pharmacy.
(5) "Secretary" means the secretary of health and environment or the
secretary's designee.
(6) "Sexually transmitted disease" means any disease transmitted
through sexual contact defined by rules and regulations adopted by the
secretary as a reportable infectious disease under K.S.A. 65-118, and
amendments thereto, and designated as appropriate for expedited partner
therapy by rules and regulations adopted by the secretary.
(b) (1) A healthcare provider who clinically diagnoses a patient with a
sexually transmitted disease may provide expedited partner therapy if, in
the professional judgment of the healthcare provider, the patient's sexual
partner is unlikely or unable to present for examination, testing and
treatment.
(2) A healthcare provider who provides expedited partner therapy
shall provide counseling to the patient, including distributing written
materials developed and provided by the department to be given by the patient to the patient's sexual partner.

(3) A healthcare provider shall use expedited partner therapy only for a patient's sexual partner who may have been exposed to a sexually transmitted disease within 60 days immediately prior to the patient's clinical diagnosis and who is able to be contacted and identified by the patient.

(c) (1) No healthcare provider or pharmacist shall be liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in good faith compliance with the provisions of this section, including civil damages for refusing to provide expedited partner therapy, other than an act or omission constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

(2) No healthcare provider or pharmacist shall be subject to disciplinary action by the state board of healing arts, the board of nursing or the state board of pharmacy, as applicable, on the basis of an act or omission in good faith compliance with the provisions of this section, other than an act or omission constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

(d) The department shall include the following information in written materials developed and provided for distribution as required by subsection (b)(2):

(1) A warning that a woman who is pregnant or might be pregnant should not take certain antibiotics and should immediately contact a healthcare provider for an examination;

(2) information about the antimicrobial drug and dosage provided or prescribed, including a warning that a sexual partner who has a history of allergy to the drug or the pharmaceutical class of drug should not take the drug and should immediately contact a healthcare provider for examination;

(3) information about the treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases;

(4) the requirement of sexual abstinence until a period of time after treatment to prevent infecting other sexual partners;

(5) notification of the importance of the sexual partner's receiving examination and testing for human immunodeficiency virus and other sexually transmitted diseases and information about available resources;

(6) notification of the risk to the patient, the patient's sexual partner and the general public if the sexually transmitted disease is not completely and successfully treated;

(7) the responsibility of the sexual partner to inform the sexual partner's own sexual partners of the risk of sexually transmitted disease and the importance of prompt examination and treatment by a healthcare provider; and
(8) such other information deemed necessary by the secretary.

(e) The secretary shall adopt rules and regulations as necessary to implement and administer this section.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.