

Colorado State Board of Medical Examiners Policy

POLICY NUMBER: 40-10
Title: Appropriateness of Treating Partners of Patients with Sexually Transmitted Infections
Date Issued: 5/10/01
Date(s) Revised:
Reference:
Purpose: To clarify the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners' position concerning the appropriateness of physicians treating the partners of patients with sexually transmitted infections.

POLICY: The Board acknowledges the concern and dilemma which occurs when a physician encounters a patient with a sexually transmitted infection, and the partner of the patient does not come to the physician's office. The ideal situation would be that each partner visit his or her primary healthcare provider for treatment. However, the Board recognizes that what is idealistic may not be realistic. There is a compelling need for the partner to receive treatment in the form of prescription medications. Treating partners of patients with sexually transmitted infections is generally considered acceptable and desirable if the partner will not seek treatment from his or her primary healthcare provider. The overriding public policy concern must be to treat the infected partner. It must be made clear to the patient that his or her partner must take the medication as prescribed and should follow-up with his or her own healthcare provider. If the partner has any drug allergy or is on any medication, he or she should consult with a healthcare provider before filling the prescription. It is the position of the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners that the public risk of untreated sexually transmitted infection is greater than the risk of complications from prescribing in this less than ideal setting.