

Pharmacy Contraception Service

Oral Contraception (initiation and ongoing supply)

Key information for pharmacy teams

Helping people choose the right contraception for them

PURPOSE



Increase access to contraception



Support patient choice



Empower healthier lives and stronger communities

1 What is the service?



- A consultation and supply service for a range of oral hormonal contraception ("the pill").
- Covers initiation (where clinically appropriate) and ongoing supply.
- Helps people start or continue contraception safely and conveniently in community pharmacy.
- Available to all, in line with NHS guidance.

2 Who can access the service?



- Suitable for new and existing users of oral contraception.
- Clinically appropriate and no need to see a GP first.
- Available to all, regardless of age, gender or ethnicity, in line with NHS guidance.
- Consider individual circumstances, including safeguarding and consent requirements (especially under 16s).

3 Supply length



- **Initiation:** supply up to **3 months** (where clinically appropriate).
- **Ongoing supply:** **6–12 months**, in line with what the patient has previously had, where clinically appropriate and in line with the service specification.
- Ensure patients know how to re-access the service.

4 Consultation and clinical checks



- Use the service pathway and PGD.
- Take and record relevant medical and contraceptive history.
- Check blood pressure and BMI (where clinically appropriate) and any other relevant measurements.
- Assess suitability, identify any contraindications and discuss potential side effects.
- Record the consultation and supply on your PMR.

5 Remember LARC



- Long-acting reversible contraception (e.g. implant and IUS/IUD) is more effective than oral contraception.
- Discuss alternative and more effective methods, including LARC, with all patients.
- Know your local referral pathways for LARC insertion and removal.
- Provide information to support an informed choice.

6 Safeguarding



- Be alert to safeguarding concerns (e.g. under 16s, coercion or abuse).
- Follow local safeguarding procedures.
- Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians delivering the service must have completed the recommended **Level 3** safeguarding training OR have direct access to Level 3 advice.
- Document any concerns and actions taken.

7 Wider pharmacy team



- The service can be provided by suitably trained and competent pharmacists or pharmacy technicians under the PGD.
- Other team members can support with appropriate delegated tasks.
- The Responsible Pharmacist remains accountable for safe delivery and delegation in line with the SOP.

8 More information and resources



- Full service specification, PGD, training and resources are available on the CPE website:
cpe.org.uk/national-pharmacy-services/advanced-services/pharmacy-contraception-service/
- For local referral pathways and support, contact the CPGM team.

KEY MESSAGES



Improves access for patients
Convenient, trusted and local care.



Supports personal choice
Help people make informed decisions about their reproductive health.



Helps reduce pressure on GP services
Freed-up GP capacity for other patient needs.