

Pharmacy Contraception Service: What GPs and Sexual health clinics need to know



The Pharmacy Contraception Service can help reduce pressure on GP practices and sexual health clinics



The service offers **greater choice from where people can access contraception services** and can **create additional capacity** in primary care and sexual health clinics.



Helping to support meeting the demand for more complex assessments.



Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians can independently **initiate and can continue provision of oral contraceptives** initiated in primary care (including general practice and pharmacies) or sexual health clinics.



From **29th October 2025**, they can also provide oral emergency conception as part of the service.

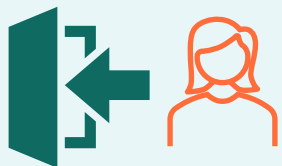
As **pharmacies are highly accessible**, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians providing the service can **help address health inequalities** by providing wider healthcare access in their communities.



They can also signpost service users to local sexual health services.

People can access the service by:

- Being **identified as clinically suitable by the community pharmacist or pharmacy technician** and accepting the offer of the service
- Self-referring** to a community pharmacy
- Being **signposted by their general practice**
- Being **signposted by a sexual health clinic** (or equivalent)
- Being **signposted by other NHS service provider**, e.g. urgent treatment centres or NHS 111



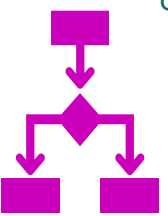
Consultations can only be provided **directly with the person accessing the service**, and for whom the medication is for.

Where the person consents, any oral contraception or emergency contraception supplied is **recorded in the patient's GP record** via GP Connect Update Record.

This provides visibility of both the consultation and the supply to other healthcare professionals.



Supplies are authorised via patient group directions with appropriate checks, such as the measurement of the person's blood pressure and body mass index, being undertaken, where necessary.



Eligible individuals seeking supplies of contraception can be considered for:

- Emergency contraception** – an individual of childbearing age
- Combined Oral Contraceptive** – from menarche up to and including 49 years of age
- Progestogen Only Pill** – from menarche up to and including 54 years of age (49 for Drospirenone)



Supplies on initiation will **not exceed 3 months**

Ongoing supplies will be for a **minimum of 6 months** but **up to 12 months** can be supplied.

If a supply is **not clinically appropriate**, the individual will be referred to their GP practice or sexual health clinic.