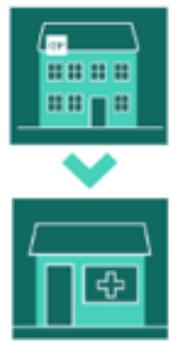


Pharmacy Contraception Service: What GPs and Sexual health clinics need to know

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 can independently **initiate and can continue provision of oral contraceptives** initiated in primary care (including general practice and pharmacies) or sexual health clinics.
Expanding on work they have already been doing as part of locally commissioned sexual health services.

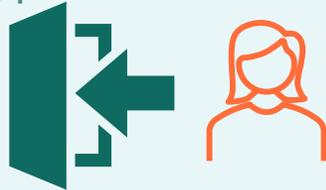
As **pharmacies are highly accessible**, pharmacists providing the service can **help address health inequalities** by providing wider healthcare access in their communities.



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** and accepting the offer of the service
- Self-refer** to a community pharmacy
- Referred by their general practice**
- Referred from a sexual health clinic** (or equivalent)
- Referred from other NHS service providers**, e.g. urgent treatment centres or NHS 111

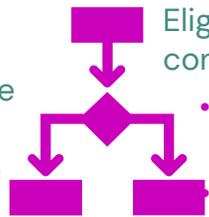


Where the person consents, any oral contraception supplied is **recorded in the patient's GP record** via GP Connect Update Record.

This provides visibility of the consultation and supply of contraceptive 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 oral contraceptives can be considered for:

- Combined Oral Contraceptive** – from menarche up to and including 49 years of age; or
- Progestogen Only Pill** – from menarche up to and including 54 years of age.



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

Ongoing supplies will be for **up to 12 months**

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

Please refer suitable individuals to the Pharmacy Contraception Service at their chosen community pharmacy