



Specification

Local Pharmacy Accredited Service for the supply of
Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) under a
Patient Group Direction in Community Pharmacies

1st April 2025 – 31st March 2030

Wellbeing and Public Health Service/Public Health

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1. Population Needs:

National/local context and evidence base

The Council wishes to offer a uniformly high-quality service in all pharmacies across the Cornwall, providing members of the public with a Local Pharmacy Accredited Service for the supply of Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) under a Patient Group Direction.

The rate of under 18 conceptions in Cornwall is on an upward trend. A low level of under 18 conceptions remains a priority for Cornwall Council and continues to be an important Public Health outcome indicator because teenage mothers and their babies are more likely to experience poorer health and social outcomes. The number of abortions in England and Wales in 2021 was the highest since records began at 214,689 abortions. This represents an age-standardised abortion rate of 18.6 per 1,000 resident women aged 15 to 44. Around 45% of pregnancies and 33% of births are unplanned or ambivalent, with women from the most deprived backgrounds being almost three times more likely to need abortions than women from the wealthiest backgrounds. There are a variety of reasons as to why abortions are on the rise. This includes cost of living pressures which mean that women across all socio-economic groups are less able to cope with the emotional and financial pressures of continuing a pregnancy.

2. Monitoring

The Service Provider will review its standard operating procedures and referral pathways for the provision of this service on an annual basis and these will be available for inspection by the Council.

Paperwork:

- a. For each consultation the EHC supply checklist will be completed correctly on PharmOutcomes
- b. For those women under 16 seeking advice and supply, the Fraser Guidelines checklist should be completed on PharmOutcomes.
- c. The age and postcode of each patient will be recorded on the patient form in PharmOutcomes.
- d. All incidents including null returns should be forwarded to PHContracts@cornwall.gov.uk on a monthly basis.

3. Governance

The Council reserves the right to inspect the premises with reasonable notice from which this service operates along with the right to review the service at any time. The service provider should forward any complaints received appertaining to the service accompanied by copies of any correspondence that outline incidents to the contracts manager within thirty (30) days of receiving the complaint. In addition, there is a national requirement to report any significant events as soon as reasonably possible and this will be to the Cornwall Council Commissioner.

4. Claims for payment

Where requested by the Council, the Service Provider shall supply Cornwall Council with any additional information / evidence required to establish whether the Provider has fulfilled its obligation under the Service Agreement.

- a. Charges are as per cost schedule.
- b. Invoices and data collection is made on PharmOutcomes.

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- c. Invoices more than three (3) months old will NOT be processed.

5. Aims and objectives of service

- a. To improve access to emergency contraception and sexual health service advice
- b. To refer clients where appropriate into mainstream contraception and sexual health services

6. Supply

Levonorgestrel 1.5mg tablets
 Ulipristal acetate 30mg tablets

Online local information for sexual health

<https://www.sexualhealthcornwall.co.uk/services/>

7. Population covered

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

8. Training

The declaration of competence statement must be completed and sent directly to Cornwall Council. In completing the competency framework pharmacists should be prepared to provide evidence against this framework if requested to the Council including evidence of training and assessment.

Pharmacists are required to complete the online emergency contraception module (CPPE EHC Course) alongside the Level 2 Safeguarding module. Attendance at a locally delivered EHC workshop (virtual) when entering the scheme is encouraged and thereafter every three (3) years from a quality improvement perspective.

9. Any acceptance and exclusion criteria

This service is available for, people who could get pregnant, this includes cisgender women, transgender men and non-binary (assigned female at birth) people who have not had hysterectomy or bilateral oophorectomy of reproductive age.

10. Applicable Service Standards

The service should be provided in line with national and local child and vulnerable adult protection guidelines as follows:

- a. Contraceptive services for under 25s, NICE guidelines [PH51] (2014)
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph51>
- b. Service Standards for Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH)
<https://www.fsrh.org/Public/Public/Standards-and-Guidance/clinical-standards.aspx>
- c. Emergency Contraception CEU Guidance – (FSRH 2017, amended July 2023)
<https://www.fsrh.org/Common/Uploaded%20files/documents/fsrh-guideline-emergency-contraception03dec2020-amendedjuly2023-11jul.pdf>
- d. UK National Guideline on Safer Sex Advice (BASHH & BHIVA 2012)
https://www.bashh.org/userfiles/pages/files/resources/safer_sex_2012.pdf
- e. Reducing sexually transmitted infections, NICE guideline (NG221) (NICE 2022)
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng221>

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- f. GMC guidance 0-18 (2018) <https://www.gmc-uk.org/professional-standards/professional-standards-for-doctors/0-18-years>

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