

Transition from Local Authority commissioned Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) to Pharmacy First

Information for community pharmacies in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

This update is clarifying the local arrangements for the expansion of the Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS) to include the provision of oral emergency contraception (EHC). This service's commissioning responsibility transitioned from Local Authority commissioned provision to NHS England and commenced on 1st October 2025.

The locally commissioned offer was kept in place at the request of Community Pharmacy Cornwall, to ensure a smooth transition to the new national offer.

Local intelligence illustrates that the vast majority of providers have now transitioned over to the NHSE commissioned offer – the tariff is higher than the locally commissioned service and Pharmacy Technicians are able to deliver the service in addition to Pharmacists (subject to meeting training requirements as detailed in the service specification).

Key messages:

- Up to and including the **6th February 2026**, Cornwall Council will continue to support the locally commissioned offer of EHC.
- From **7th February 2026** all services are expected to switch to NHS commissioned services and become part of Pharmacy First,
- Therefore, only retrospective claims should be made to Cornwall Council after 7th February 2026, as all activity should be under NHS contract from that point

Frequently Asked Questions

Are the Safeguarding arrangements changing?

No. All pharmacists and technicians will continue to need to complete the CPPE modules for levels 1,2 and 3 for children and adults. Where there are safeguarding concerns, staff will be required to seek support and advice from the local safeguarding teams. They are:

Safeguarding Children

- [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Safeguarding Children Cornwall Council](#)

Safeguarding Adults

- [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Safeguarding Adults Cornwall Council](#)

Where else can I refer people to who may have further reproductive or sexual health needs?

[Brook Cornwall](#)

Is local education/training available?

Yes, Cornwall Council will continue to provide regular CPD sessions for all pharmacists in all areas of Cornwall. These will be done in partnership with Community Pharmacy Cornwall and be made available across the area.

Of note, these sessions are not the training required to deliver the EHC service.

Why is the commissioning of EHC changing?

Nationally, the roll out of Oral Emergency Contraception has been developed to remove any local variability in the offer of EHC and to tie this closer with the offer of routine contraception already available via Pharmacy First. As a result, to remove any potential confusion for pharmacies and the service users, local authorities in England are standing down any services they commission from pharmacies to ensure reporting and reimbursement processes are as simple as possible for pharmacies.