



Welcome to the Humber & North Yorkshire edition of the Oral Contraception Newsletter. This newsletter is aimed at GP practices and sexual health providers across Humber & North Yorkshire and aims to support services referring patients into Community Pharmacy for oral contraception.

What is the Pharmacy Oral Contraception Advanced Service?

This is a new service open to all Community Pharmacies to provide once they have undertaken the necessary training. The pharmacists provide ongoing management of routine oral contraception that was started in general practice or a sexual health clinic. The supplies, whether it is the combined pill or progesterone only pill, will be authorised via a Patient Group Direction (PGD), with required checks, such as BP and BMI being undertaken which is fed back to the GP practice or sexual health provider with the patients consent.

Which patients can be seen and how can I identify them?

When a patient is due a repeat of the oral contraception, they can be seen by those Community Pharmacies who are signed up to deliver the service. They do not have to be referred by their GP.

Please see attached document outlining how you can identify patients and increase referrals into the service.

How will it help care navigators, reception teams and practices?

By promoting this service to patients and signposting patients to the pharmacy, it will release appointments for other patients who do need to access services from the practice. So, when patients ring for their repeat medication, or a pill check they can be directed by the reception teams or care navigators to those community pharmacies providing the service and as more patients become aware of the service they can go to the community pharmacy themselves.

Why is this good for patients?

Community Pharmacy has long been the first port of call for many people seeking advice and information about health concerns. For some patients, being signposted to the pharmacy will improve awareness of how pharmacists can meet their needs and the other services they provide. Pharmacists are experts in the use of medicines and can provide advice for a wide range of conditions. The Oral Contraception Service within community pharmacy provides patients with greater choice and access when considering where to go for a repeat of their contraception.

Freeing up capacity in general practice to focus on those patients who have more complex needs helps support the wider healthcare needs of a locality in a more efficient way. Practices and local community pharmacy colleagues should work together to ensure any barriers to accessing the service are overcome and to ensure as many patients as possible are signposted to the service.

How do I know if a patient has been seen in Community Pharmacy?

The information will be fed back to the GP, if the patient consents, to ensure the patients' record is up to date with the care they received. At the moment this is via nhs.mail but digital systems are being developed to enable this information to be fed back electronically to GP practices and sexual health services.

Which Community Pharmacies are providing the service?

We are trialling the following link as a temporary solution until the DOS service finder comes online. It is not intended to be a fully functional solution but will show you which pharmacies have registered to provide this (and other) service.

[PhIF Find your pharmacy \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io)

Can Community Pharmacy only see patients who require repeat oral contraception?

There are some community pharmacists who have completed the required number of consultations in relation to issuing repeat oral contraception and so are eligible to register to be part of a pilot known as 'Tier 2' which allows the community pharmacist to initiate oral contraception.

Which patients can be seen in Tier 2?

Any patient who presents or contacts a sexual health service or their general practice who would like to start on oral contraception can be sign posted to this service.

Which Community Pharmacies are providing the service?

There is a link that is updated regularly that shows who is signed up for the Tier 2 pilot [NHS England » Pilot sites – NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service. Initiation of oral contraception \(Tier 2\)](#)

Any queries about the service or the content of these newsletters can be directed to hayley.patterson1@nhs.net