

Public Health enhanced service for the supply oral Emergency Hormonal Contraception and chlamydia screening in Community Pharmacies in Plymouth

Service Specification



1. INTRODUCTION

Improving sexual health is a public health priority. Contraception is key to good sexual and reproductive health. It is a cost effective intervention that is essential to family planning and avoiding unwanted pregnancy. Chlamydia is the most common bacterial sexually transmitted infection, with sexually active young adults at highest risk.

Community Pharmacies provide accessible and convenient services and are well placed to provide oral Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) and chlamydia screening. This service is commissioned as part of a whole system approach to improving sexual health outcomes in Plymouth.

In June 2021, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) changed to focus on reducing the harms from untreated chlamydia infection. These harms occur predominantly in young women and other people with a womb or ovaries. Opportunistic screening should therefore focus on these groups, combined with reducing time to test results and treatment, strengthening partner notification and re-testing after treatment. Services provided by sexual health services remain unchanged.

In practice this means that chlamydia screening in community settings (e.g. GP and Community Pharmacy) will only be proactively offered to young women and other people with a womb or ovaries. Everyone can still get tested if they need, but men will not be proactively offered a test unless an indication has been identified, such as being a partner of someone with chlamydia or having symptoms. More details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-chlamydia-screening-programme-ncsp>

2. PURPOSE

Emergency contraception can prevent pregnancy after unprotected sex or if a contraceptive method has failed. The sooner that oral emergency contraception is taken the more effective it will be in preventing unintended pregnancy. The aim of this enhanced service is to

- Improve access to oral Emergency Hormonal Contraception and sexual health advice
- Increase the use of oral EHC in women aged 13-24 years who have had unprotected sex
- Provide chlamydia screening to women aged 13 to 24 year olds during an EHC consultation and also to sexually active women under 25 year olds if requested over the counter in the pharmacy
- Signpost people to the wider range of contraception and sexual health services where appropriate

3. SERVICE DESCRIPTION

3.1 Key activity

This service is commissioned for community pharmacies to provide free oral Emergency Hormonal Contraception to women between the ages of 13 and 24 years inclusive as specified within the

Patient Group Directions (PGDs) for Levonorgestrel and Ulipristal Acetate adopted by Plymouth City Council.

As part of this enhanced service suitably qualified and trained Pharmacists will:

- Take appropriate history from the client to ensure they have sufficient information to direct treatment
- Provide one to one advice about the provision of a suitable form of emergency contraception
- Where clinically indicated provide oral EHC as specified in the Patient Group Direction for Levonorgestrel or Ulipristal Acetate
- Where appropriate provide information regarding post coital Intra Uterine Device (IUD) fitting and relevant service pathways
- Where a supply of oral EHC is not appropriate advice and signposting to other relevant services e.g., General Practice or Sexual Health in Plymouth (SHiP) will be provided
- Routinely offer opportunistic chlamydia screening to women aged 13 to 24 years accessing oral EHC
- Provide chlamydia screening to women under 25s when requested over the counter in the pharmacy
- Routinely undertake a competence assessment in accordance with Fraser Guidelines for people under 16 as part of the assessment and prior to providing oral EHC
- Provide appropriate sexual health promotion including free condoms and onward signposting to specialist sexual health services where required
- Maintain adequate records of the service provided on PharmOutcomes
- Participate in relevant training and engagement with local sexual health services
- Inform the local authority of any changes to personnel such that the supply of oral EHC becomes unavailable at the pharmacy

3.2 Eligibility criteria

The service is available to women in Plymouth aged 13-24 years who meet the inclusion criteria defined in the Patient Group Directions for Levonorgestrel and Ulipristal Acetate and have consented to treatment. Chlamydia screening is also available to women under 25 year olds requesting this service over the pharmacy counter.

3.3 Access

The service must be accessible during normal service opening hours. The service must be provided from a designated consulting area that provides sufficient privacy, confidentiality and comfort for the client. Pharmacies are encouraged to display relevant promotional materials.

3.4 Payment Structure

A payment of £12.50 will be made for each consultation with client aged 13-24 years.

Reimbursement cost for Levonorgestrel and Ulipristal Acetate supplied under the PGDs will be at NHS drug tariff price (+VAT) currently (September 2018)

Levonorgestrel 1.5mg tablet £5.20

Ulipristal Acetate 30mg tablet £14.05

Chlamydia Screening £2.50 per issue of chlamydia test and £2.50 for every test returned

Payments will be amended subject to any changes in tariff. Remuneration will be quarterly in arrears based on activity reported on PharmOutcomes.

4. NETWORKS AND LINKS

It is expected that the Pharmacy will maintain working relationships with specialist sexual health services, General Practice and other services relevant to the needs of those accessing this service.

5. ACCREDITATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS

The Pharmacy will ensure sufficient and suitably qualified staff to deliver the service. All Pharmacists delivering the service must be registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).

All pharmacists who deliver the service must attend a locally approved training event organised by Sexual Health in Plymouth (SHiP). They should all complete the latest e-learning CPPE modules as defined below

- CPPE learning module on Emergency Contraception
- CPPE assessment on Emergency Contraception
- CPPE learning module on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults
- CPPE assessment on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

All Pharmacists will be responsible for identifying their own learning needs and recording their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in accordance with current GPhC standards.

All Pharmacists delivering this service must be aware of local sexual health services and referral pathways.

6. QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

This service will be provided in compliance with the following guidance

- Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health Guideline Emergency Contraception
<https://www.fsrh.org/news/fsrh-launches-new-emergency-contraception-guideline/>
- National Chlamydia Screening Programme standards (8th Edition)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-chlamydia-screening-programme-ncsp>
- Plymouth safeguarding children policy and guidance
<http://web.plymouth.gov.uk/localsafeguardingchildrenboard>
- Plymouth safeguarding policy and guidance for working with vulnerable adults
<http://web.plymouth.gov.uk/adultsafeguardingboard.htm>
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005

10. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

The Pharmacy is required to have a robust incident reporting and investigation procedure in place for clinical and non-clinical incidents. Any incidents pertinent to this service should be reported in

a timely fashion using the normal incident reporting procedures. A copy of any relevant reports should be sent to the local authority Public Health Department.

All Pharmacists delivering this service must ensure that the relevant fields within PharmOutcomes are completed during every consultation, whether oral EHC is issued or not.

II. CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

The Pharmacy will report activity through PharmOutcomes. The pharmacy will participate in any service audits deemed necessary by Plymouth City Council.