

## Public Health Enhanced Service for the supply of oral Emergency Hormonal Contraception from Community Pharmacies in Plymouth, including chlamydia screening of women aged 13-24



### 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 commonly diagnosed sexually transmitted infection in England. The prevalence of infection is highest in young sexually active women (15 to 24 year olds). Chlamydia often has no symptoms but, if left untreated, can have serious health complications in women including pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), ectopic pregnancy and tubal factor infertility (TFI). Complications in men are much rarer and an infection will often resolve without treatment in those who are asymptomatic.

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.

### 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 EHC and sexual health advice
- Support the use of oral EHC for women aged 13 and over who have had unprotected sex
- Provide chlamydia screening to 13 to 24 year olds as part of an EHC consultation
- Signpost people to the wider range of contraception and sexual health services where appropriate

### SERVICE DESCRIPTION

#### Key activity

This service is commissioned for community pharmacies to provide free oral Emergency Hormonal Contraception to women aged 13 and over 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 chlamydia screening to all women aged 13-24 years
- 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 sexual health services and online testings [yourship.uk/stis/online-home-sti-test-kits/](http://yourship.uk/stis/online-home-sti-test-kits/) 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

**Eligibility criteria**

The service is available to women in Plymouth aged 13 years and over who meet the inclusion criteria defined in the Patient Group Directions for Levonorgestrel and Ulipristal Acetate and have consented to treatment.

**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.

**Payment Structure**

A payment of £15.50 will be made for each consultation with client aged 13 years and over. Reimbursement cost for Levonorgestrel and Ulipristal Acetate supplied under the PGDs will be at NHS drug tariff price (+VAT) currently (June 2021)

Levonorgestrel 1.5mg tablet £5.20 Ulipristal Acetate 30mg tablet £14.05

Chlamydia Screening £2.60 per issue of chlamydia test and £2.60 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.

**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.

**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).

It is recommended that 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.

**QUALITY REQUIREMENTS**

This service will be provided in compliance with relevant guidance and national standards including:

- Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health Guideline: Emergency Contraception (March 2017, amended December 2020)
- <https://www.fsrh.org/standards-and-guidance/documents/ceu-clinical-guidance-emergency-contraception-march-2017/>
- National Chlamydia Screening Programme standards (8th Edition, updated 2022) [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/759846/NCSP\\_Standards\\_7th\\_edition\\_update\\_November\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759846/NCSP_Standards_7th_edition_update_November_2018.pdf)
- Fraser Guidelines; all staff providing this service to young people under the age of 16 years will assess and demonstrate in records that the young person is Fraser Competent
- All legislative and procedural safeguarding frameworks; in particular these are Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015), Mental Capacity Act (2005) the Care Act Guidance (2014) and other relevant legislation including the Children Act (1989), the Children Act (2004); and the Sexual

Offences Act (2003) [Protocols, Policies and Procedures - Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership \(plymouthscb.co.uk\)](#) [Plymouth Multi-agency Adult Safeguarding Guidance | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](#)

- Infection control policies and procedures compliant with national guidelines.

### **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.

### **CONTRACT MANAGEMENT**

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

