

From Pharmacy Lead, SPPG
Kathryn Turner



By email to:
All Community Pharmacy Contractors
(to be shared with all community pharmacists
and locums)

Strategic Planning and Performance
Group
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BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

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26th January 2023

Dear Colleague

**PHARMACY FIRST SERVICE:
EMERGENCY HORMONAL CONTRACEPTION (EHC) - UPDATE**

I am writing to provide you with an update in relation to the Pharmacy First Service for EHC which has been available from community pharmacies across Northern Ireland since July 2022. There are currently 402 pharmacies offering the service and the [list of providers](#) is available on the BSO website.

Service activity

There has been a very positive start to the service with over 6,400 women and young people, to date, having benefited from the service. A summary of the patient demographics and the type of EHC provided is detailed in the tables below.

Patient demographics	
Age	Number
Unknown	10
13 years	3
14 years	3
15 years	11
16 years	18
>16 years	6,439
Total	6,484

Medicines supplied	
EHC	
Ulipristal acetate (UPA)	5,824 (90%)
Levonorgestrel (LNG)	631 (10%)
Bridging contraception (POP)	
Desogestrel only	14
Desogestrel + EHC	602 (≈10%)

Pathway for referrals

Women and young people may access the service by a number of referral pathways;

- Self-referral
- Referral by the pharmacy

- Referral from GP practice or Out of Hours medical centres
- Referral from Sexual Health Clinics
- Referral from other services providing safe-guarding/counselling services such as the Rowan.

The Rowan is the regional Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for Northern Ireland. They deliver a range of support and services to people who have been sexually abused, assaulted or raped. In order to provide EHC in a timely manner to a woman unable to attend the centre in person there may be occasions where the woman or young person is referred to a community pharmacy providing the EHC service. It is anticipated that numbers referred from the Rowan will be very low and in each case the Rowan nurse will call the pharmacy in advance.

Feedback from service users

It is important that we understand the experiences of the women and young people who have used the service and use their feedback to help inform service improvement. An on-line survey for service users is available at <https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/hsc/78992a7a>. The [QR code](#) in Appendix 1 can also be used to access the survey. Please print Appendix 1 and have the QR code available at every consultation. Returns to the survey have, to date, been very low considering the number of consultations that are taking place so please encourage every woman and young person using the service to complete the confidential survey.

Service monitoring

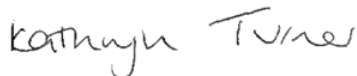
As part of routine service monitoring you may be asked to submit records to SPPG by secure email. Completed consultation forms and associated Fraser Competency forms, where applicable, should be returned within 14 days of the request.

Contract

All community pharmacy contractors meeting the service specification are eligible to offer the service provided they hold a [contract](#) with the SPPG. A copy of the contract can be found in Appendix 2. If you would like to sign up to offer the service and haven't already done so please return a signed contract by email to your local SPPG office.

If you have any queries please contact your local pharmacy adviser.

Yours sincerely,



Kathryn Turner
Pharmacy Lead
Strategic Planning and Performance Group

<i>Contact Details for Local SPPG Offices:</i>				
Belfast	South Eastern	Southern	Northern	Western
12-22 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BS	12-22 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BS	Tower Hill Armagh. BT61 9DR	County Hall 182 Galgorm Road Ballymena BT42 1QB	Gransha Park House 15 Gransha Park Clooney Road Londonderry BT47 6FN
Tel: 028 9536 3926	Tel: 028 9536 3926	Tel: 028 9536 2104	Tel: 028 9536 2812	Tel: 028 9536 1082
pharmacyservicesbelfast@hscni.net	pharmacyservicesse@hscni.net	pharmacyservicesouth@hscni.net	pharmacyservicesnorth@hscni.net	pharmacyserviceswest@hscni.net

The morning after pill

Emergency Hormonal Contraception

Service user confidential on-line survey

Please scan the QR code and complete the survey as soon as possible following your consultation with the pharmacist:

- Less than 10 minutes to complete
- Completely confidential
- Valuable feedback for service improvement



The survey can also be accessed at the following link:
<https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/hsc/78992a7a>

Thank you for taking time to complete the survey

Pharmacy First Service: Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC)

Service contract: July 2022

Period of Contract:

- Pharmacy First Service will operate from _____(insert date)
- This contract may be terminated by either the purchaser (DoH Strategic Planning & Performance Group [SPPG]) or provider (Community Pharmacy Contractor) by giving notice of one week.

Please note:

Contractors must ensure that the service is provided in accordance with the service specification and guidance and operates in accordance with all relevant Acts of Parliament, statutory regulations or other laws. As the service is developed, contractors will be expected to comply with guidance that has been formulated in consultation with Community Pharmacy Northern Ireland (CPNI).

Indemnities:

The provider hereby agrees to indemnify the purchaser against any claims for damages for loss, damage, injury (including death), plus all associated costs arising out of the acts or omissions of the provider, his servants or agents.

Payment:

The fees payable to pharmacy contractors for this service:

- One off service payment of £200 per pharmacy contractor
- A consultation fee of £25 per consultation for EHC
- An additional fee of £15 per consultation where bridging contraception is supplied
- The cost of medicines supplied as part of the consultation will be reimbursed on submission to BSO of
 1. IP prescription or
 2. Pharmacy Voucher

Service Monitoring:

- The pharmacy contractor will be required to submit all records requested by SPPG in relation to the Pharmacy First Service within 14 days of receipt of the request.

Appendix 2

- The pharmacy contractor is required to co-operate on a timely basis in respect of any review or investigation being undertaken by SPPG / BSO regarding the Pharmacy First Service
- In the event where SPPG cannot assure claims relating to the provision of the Pharmacy First Service recovery of the payment will be sought.

Training requirements:

The pharmacy contractor / responsible pharmacist is responsible for ensuring that the service is delivered in line with the service specification and guidance by suitably trained pharmacists. Training is available on the [ECHO Moodle site](#) which must be viewed by all pharmacists prior to providing the service.

Name of Pharmacist responsible:

Signing of the Agreement:

This document comprises the agreement between the SPPG (purchaser) and the Pharmacy Contractor (provider). I would like to participate in the above service. I agree to provide the service in line with the service specification and guidance.

I understand that details of participation in this service will be shared with CPNI.

Name of Pharmacy Contractor provider:

Contractor number: _____

Pharmacist's name: _____

Pharmacist's signature: _____

Date: _____

Pharmacy stamp

Please email a signed copy of this form to your Local Integrated Care Office:

Contact Details for Local Integrated Care Offices:				
Belfast	South Eastern	Southern	Northern	Western
12-22 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BS	12-22 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BS	Tower Hill Armagh. BT61 9DR	County Hall 182 Galgorm Road Ballymena BT42 1QB	Gransha Park House 15 Gransha Park Clooney Road Londonderry BT47 6FN
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pharmacyservicesbelfast@hscni.net	pharmacyservicesse@hscni.net	pharmacyservicessoth@hscni.net	pharmacyservicesnorth@hscni.net	pharmacyserviceswest@hscni.net

Signed on behalf of the SPPG: _____ Date: _____