

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
2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

Tel: 028 9536 3683
Email: kathryn.turner@hscni.net

16th November 2023

Dear Colleague

PHARMACY FIRST SERVICE: EMERGENCY HORMONAL CONTRACEPTION (EHC)

The Pharmacy First Service for EHC has been provided by participating community pharmacies in Northern Ireland since July 2022. The service continues to ensure that women and young people aged 13 years and over have timely access to sexual health advice and free EHC (including the provision of bridging contraception) when clinically indicated. The service is intended to increase the knowledge of risks such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and ensures that treatment is in line with best practice and [NI formulary](#)

Service activity

Almost 22,000 EHC consultations have now been undertaken by community pharmacists via this service:

- Almost 89% of service users received first line treatment ulipristal 30mg;
- 10% of service users received second line treatment levonorgestrel;
- Fewer than 0.25% of service users were aged under 16 years.

Feedback via the on-line survey has been provided by 65 service users, the outcomes of which have been very positive. Please continue to share the QR code (Appendix 1) for this anonymous, confidential survey, with service users.

Bridging contraception

To date only 7% of service users have received 3 months' supply of bridging contraception. However, SPPG review of consultation forms has highlighted that a high number of service users are not on any regular form of hormonal contraception. In addition, there are some service users who have accessed the service on several occasions. Despite this, the number of clients who choose to take a supply of desogestrel bridging contraception remains low. **Pharmacists are reminded to encourage women and young people to consider commencing bridging contraception.**

Updated Ulipristal PGD

The PGD for the supply of Ulipristal has been updated to reflect the National PGD (which has been updated in line with the FSRH EHC guideline July 2023). The updated PGD has been added to [BSO website](#) and can be viewed by clicking the hyperlink.

Please note, the "Cautions" section of the PGD now includes the following information:

- Ulipristal is generally not recommended in a missed pill situation.

Please ensure that all pharmacists providing the service are aware of the change and that this latest version of the ulipristal PGD is now used. Please destroy printed copies of any previous versions.

Monitoring of the service

SPPG Pharmacy Advisers are continuing to monitor service provision to provide an assurance that the service is being delivered in line with the service specification and guidance. As part of service monitoring you may be asked to submit records by secure email. Completed consultation forms and associated Fraser Competency forms, where applicable, should be returned within 14 days of the request. Reviews undertaken to date have been very encouraging, first line treatment with ulipristal has been provided to the majority of patients and whenever levonorgestrel has been supplied, a rationale for this has been recorded on the consultation form.

Pharmacies with no recorded service activity

It is important that all contracted pharmacies are able to provide the service to ensure equity of service provision across all parts of Northern Ireland. **There are eighty pharmacies currently contracted to provide this service, that do not appear to have undertaken any consultations.** Claims for payment should be submitted on a monthly basis. If consultations have been undertaken in your pharmacy but never claimed for, please submit outstanding claims to your local SPPG office as soon as possible.

If you do not wish to be a contracted provider please contact your local SPPG office and ask for your pharmacy to be removed from the list of service providers.

Resources

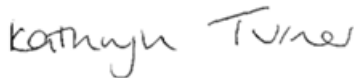
All of the available resources to support delivery of this service are available on [BSO Website](#). Please consider promoting the service on your social media platforms and contact your local GP practices to let them know you provide the service. Twitter and Instagram resources are available on the BSO website to assist with social media promotion and please retweet SPPG media posts.

Service improvement

SPPG would welcome your feedback on this service. We would like to hear from you if you have any feedback or recommendations that could improve delivery of this service. We would also like to know more about any interesting consultations that you have undertaken, particularly if there is learning that would be beneficial to share with all service providers. Please send information to siobhan.o'hare-smith@hscni.net

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 Primary Care 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