

From Pharmacy Lead, SPPG
Emma Quinn



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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27th November 2024

Dear Colleague

PHARMACY FIRST SERVICE FOR EMERGENCY HORMONAL CONTRACEPTION – UPDATE

I am writing to provide you with an update to the Pharmacy First Service for Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) service.

Abortion services in Northern Ireland - Know Your Options (KYO) leaflet

A recent update on changes to the [commissioning of abortion services](#) in Northern Ireland was shared with community pharmacies in March 2024.

It is important that all clients accessing the Pharmacy First EHC service are provided with accurate information on how to access abortion services in Northern Ireland. The most up to date information on abortion care for women and girls in Northern Ireland can be accessed on the NI Direct website at [Abortion services | nidirect](#); an A5 flyer is also available at [Abortion Services](#)

Please note: the information on abortion services, contained in hard copies of the “Know Your Options” (KYO) information leaflet is no longer valid. With immediate effect, KYO leaflets should no longer be provided to women accessing the Pharmacy First EHC service. All pharmacies are requested to dispose of any hard copies of the KYO leaflets that are retained in the pharmacy. Alternatively, women accessing the EHC service should be referred to the NI direct website at [Abortion services | nidirect](#) for information on how to access abortion services in Northern Ireland.

Please note that the service specification and the consultation form have been updated to reflect this change.

Contacting Trust Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare Clinics

In the case of urgent referrals or queries related to emergency hormonal contraception, Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare clinics can be contacted as follows:

- **Belfast Trust: 028 9504 5500**
Monday to Thursday 9am to 11.30am and 1.30pm to 3.30pm & Friday 9.00am to 11.30am
- **Northern Trust: 028 2826 6163**
Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm
- **South Eastern Trust: 028 9041 3796**
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00am to 12.30pm
- **Southern Trust: 028 3756 2200**
Monday and Wednesday 9.30am to 12.30pm & Friday 9.30am to 12pm
- **Western Trust: 028 7132 1758**
Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Sign up to the EHC service

It is important that as many community pharmacies as possible are able to provide this service to ensure equity of service provision across all parts of Northern Ireland. All community pharmacy contractors meeting the service specification are eligible to offer the service provided they hold a contract with the SPPG. 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.

Promotion of the service

Pharmacists are encouraged to display a copy of the promotional poster for the service in a prominent position in your pharmacy. Twitter and Instagram resources are also available on the BSO website to assist with social media promotion; please consider promoting the service on your social media platforms and retweeting SPPG media posts.

All of the available resources to support delivery including the service contract, promotional materials, updated consultation form and updated service specification can be accessed on the [Pharmacy First Service page of BSO website.](#)

If you have any queries please contact your SPPG Pharmacy Adviser.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Quinn
Pharmacy Lead
Strategic Planning and Performance Group

Contact Details for Primary 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
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