

NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service

Local Product Choice Recommendations for Community Pharmacies in Surrey Heartlands

Introduction

The Pharmacy Contraception service from the 1st December 2023 incorporates initiation and repeat supplies of contraception. Any pharmacy registering to provide the service after this date must now provide the full service, i.e. both initiation and repeat supplies. Pharmacies previously providing the repeat supply service have until the 29th February 2024 to sign up for the full service including initiation.

The objectives of the service are to:

- Provide a model for community pharmacy teams to initiate provision of oral contraception (OC) and to continue the provision of OC supplies initiated in primary care (including general practice and pharmacies) or sexual health clinics and equivalent. Both initiation and ongoing supply will be undertaken using Patient Group Directions (PGDs) to support the review and supply process; and
- Establish an integrated pathway between existing services and community pharmacies that provides people with greater choice and access when considering continuing their current form of OC.

The service aims to provide:

- Greater choice from where people can access contraception services; and
- Extra capacity in primary care and sexual health clinics (or equivalent) to support meeting the demand for more complex assessments

Full details of the service, including service specifications and patient group directions can be found at [Pharmacy Contraception Service - Community Pharmacy England \(cpe.org.uk\)](https://www.cpe.org.uk).

Choice of product

Where a person is initiated on an OC, pharmacists should use their professional discretion as to the appropriate choice of product, from those included in the PGD. Local formularies/ restrictions should be referred to and followed accordingly. Pharmacists should refer to their local integrated care board (ICB) formulary for further information.

This document outlines recommendations from Surrey Heartlands ICB in relation to OC products that should be supplied by pharmacies within the ICB. The aim is to support consistency and the effective use of NHS resources.

Surrey Heartlands Formulary Choices

The Joint Surrey Heartlands Formulary is currently under development and as such the list of preferred contraceptive choices is based on Contraceptive Prescribing in Primary Care: A Quick Reference Guide available on the [Prescribing Advisory Database](#).

The PGDs for the new service contain a list of products that may be supplied under the service. To support consistency of prescribing across Surrey Heartlands ICB, products on these lists (appendices A and B) have been categorised into three categories:

- **Preferred** (highlighted in green) – these products are considered 1st line in Surrey Heartlands ICB
- **Acceptable alternatives** (no highlight) - considered as suitable options if the cost to the NHS remains below the Drug Tariff price for a particular combination of hormones
- **Less preferred** (highlighted in red) - products should only be supplied in the event of stock shortages of other, lower cost alternatives; or where there is a need to continue a brand initiated by another healthcare professional as part of the service.

Note: Appendices A and B have been amended from the tables within the PGDs for each contraceptive type. The headings in the table relate to the Dictionary of Medicines and Devices (dm+d) definition of products as Virtual Medicinal Product (VMP) or Actual Medicinal Product (AMP). In practice, contraceptives should be supplied under the brand name (or AMP), the only exception being desogestrel, which should be supplied under its generic name (or VMP).

Monitoring

Monitoring of supplies of contraceptives through this service will be undertaken by Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Board (ICB) in the same way as any other prescribing within the ICB. Any unwarranted variation in supply under the PGDs by individual pharmacies may be investigated.

Appendix A – Combined Oral Contraceptives

The following tables provide information on the preferred Combined Oral Contraceptives choices in Surrey Heartlands ICB.

These have been categorised into three categories:

- **Preferred** (highlighted in green) – these products are considered 1st line in Surrey Heartlands ICB
- **Acceptable alternatives** (no highlight) - considered as suitable options if the cost to the NHS remains below the Drug Tariff price for a particular combination of hormones
- **Less preferred** (highlighted in red) - products should only be supplied in the event of stock shortages of other, lower cost alternatives; or where there is a need to continue a brand initiated by another healthcare professional as part of the service.

Monophasic

VMP/AMP Name	Supplier Name
Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Levonorgestrel 150microgram tablets	
Levest 150/30 tablets	Morningside Healthcare
Rigevidon tablets	Consilient Health Ltd
Maexeni 150microgram/30microgram tablets	Lupin Healthcare (UK) Ltd
Ovranette 150microgram/30microgram tablets	Pfizer Ltd
Ambelina 150microgram/30microgram tablets	Crescent Pharma Ltd
Microgynon 30 tablets	Bayer Plc
Elevin 150microgram/30microgram tablets	MedRx Licences Ltd

Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Desogestrel 150microgram tablets	
Gedarel 20microgram/150microgram tablets	Consilient Health Ltd
Bimizza 150microgram/20microgram tablets	Morningside Healthcare Ltd
Mercilon 150microgram/20microgram tablets	Organon Pharma (UK) Ltd

Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Gestodene 75microgram tablets	
Millinette 20microgram/75microgram tablets	Consilient Health Ltd
Sunya 20/75 tablets	Stragen UK Ltd
Akizza 75microgram/20microgram tablets	Morningside Healthcare
Femodette tablets	Bayer Plc

Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Desogestrel 150microgram tablets	
Gedarel 30microgram/150microgram tablets	Consilient Health Ltd
Cimizt 30microgram/150microgram tablets	Morningside Healthcare
Marvelon tablets	Organon Pharma (UK) Ltd

VMP/AMP Name	Supplier Name
Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Drospirenone 3mg tablets	
Lucette 0.03mg/3mg tablets	Consilient Health Ltd
Yacella 0.03mg/3mg tablets	Morningside Healthcare Ltd
Dretine 0.03mg/3mg tablets	Theramex HQ UK Ltd
Ellanite 0.03mg/3mg tablets	Kent Pharma (UK) Ltd
Yasmin tablets	Bayer Plc

Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Gestodene 75microgram tablets	
Millinette 30microgram/75microgram tablets	Consilient Health Ltd
Katya 30/75 tablets	Stragen UK Ltd
Femodene tablets	Bayer Plc
Akizza 75microgram/30microgram tablets	Morningside Healthcare

Ethinylestradiol 35microgram / Norethisterone 1mg tablets	
Norimin 1mg/35microgram tablets	Pfizer Ltd

Ethinylestradiol 35microgram / Norethisterone 500microgram tablets	
Brevinor 500microgram/35microgram tablets	Pfizer Ltd

Ethinylestradiol 35microgram / Norgestimate 250microgram tablets	
Cilique 250microgram/35microgram tablets	Consilient Health Ltd
Lizinna 250microgram/35microgram tablets	Morningside Healthcare Ltd

Mestranol 50microgram / Norethisterone 1mg tablets	
Norinyl-1 tablets	Pfizer Ltd

Monophasic everyday

VMP/AMP Name	Supplier Name
Drospirenone 3mg / Estetrol 14.2mg tablets	
Drovelis 3mg/14.2mg tablets	Gedeon Richter (UK) Ltd
Estradiol 1.5mg / Nomegestrol 2.5mg tablets	
Zoely 2.5mg/1.5mg tablets	Theramex HQ UK Ltd
Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Drospirenone 3mg tablets	
Eloine 0.02mg/3mg tablets	Bayer Plc
Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Gestodene 75microgram tablets	
Femodene ED tablets	Bayer Plc
Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Levonorgestrel 150microgram tablets	
Microgynon 30 ED tablets	Bayer Plc

Phasic

VMP/AMP Name	Supplier Name
TriRegol tablets	Consilient Health Ltd
Logynon tablets	Bayer Plc
Synphase tablets	Pfizer Ltd

Phasic everyday

VMP/AMP Name	Supplier Name
Logynon ED tablets	Bayer Plc
Qlaira tablets	Bayer Plc

Appendix B – Progesterone-Only Pill (POP)

The following table provides information on the preferred Progesterone-Only Pill oral contraception choices in Surrey Heartlands ICB.

These have been categorised into three categories:

- **Preferred** (highlighted in green) – these products are considered 1st line in Surrey Heartlands ICB
- **Acceptable alternatives** (no highlight) - considered as suitable options if the cost to the NHS remains below the Drug Tariff price for a particular combination of hormones
- **Less preferred** (highlighted in red) - products should only be supplied in the event of stock shortages of other, lower cost alternatives; or where there is a need to continue a brand initiated by another healthcare professional as part of the service.

VMP/AMP Name	Supplier Name
Desogestrel 75microgram tablets	
Desogestrel 75microgram tablets	Alliance Healthcare (Distribution) Ltd
Desogestrel 75microgram tablets	A A H Pharmaceuticals Ltd
Desogestrel 75microgram tablets	Zentiva Pharma UK Ltd
Desogestrel 75microgram tablets	Sigma Pharmaceuticals Plc
Desogestrel 75microgram tablets	Crescent Pharma Ltd
Desogestrel 75microgram tablets	Lupin Healthcare (UK) Ltd
Desogestrel 75microgram tablets	Morningside Healthcare Ltd
Desogestrel 75microgram tablets	Medihealth (Northern) Ltd
Desogestrel 75microgram tablets	Key Pharmaceuticals Ltd
Desorex 75microgram tablets	Somex Pharma
Zelleta 75microgram tablets	Morningside Healthcare Ltd
Feanolla 75microgram tablets	Lupin Healthcare (UK) Ltd
Cerelle 75microgram tablets	Consilient Health Ltd
Desomono 75microgram tablets	MedRx Licences Ltd
Cerazette 75microgram tablets	Organon Pharma (UK) Ltd
Levonorgestrel 30microgram tablets	
Norgeston 30microgram tablets	Bayer Plc
Norethisterone 350microgram tablets	
Noriday 350microgram tablets	Pfizer Ltd