

SERVICE SPECIFICATION

To provide a comprehensive pharmacy sexual health offer (people aged 13-24), combining the supply of emergency hormonal contraception and Chlamydia screening

Service	Emergency Hormonal Contraception and Chlamydia Screening – 13- to 24-year-olds (Devon and Torbay)
Authority Lead	Devon and Torbay
Period	1 st October 2021 – 30 th September 2023
Date of Review	October 2022

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1. AIM, OBJECTIVES AND EVIDENCE

1.1 Aim

The aim of this specification is to enable pharmacies in Devon and Torbay to contribute to achieving key public health outcomes:

- A reduction in the under 18 conception rate
- An increase in the Chlamydia diagnoses amongst young people aged 15-24 years

1.2 Objectives

Pharmacy Emergency Hormonal Contraception and Chlamydia Screening Service must:

- Provide early access to Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) combined with an opportunistic Chlamydia screening kit for young people aged 13- to 24-year-olds
- Opportunistically signpost young people aged 16-24 (not presenting for EHC) to counter-top Chlamydia screening kits
- Where appropriate, to refer young people into mainstream contraceptive services and to ensure that pathways for post-coital IUD fitting for emergency contraception are known to those young people who request EHC
- Promote condom use and safer sexual activity and refer clients who may have been at risk of other sexually transmitted infections to a specialist sexual health service

1.3 Background and evidence

Improving sexual health is a public health priority. The Public Health Outcomes Framework for England 2013-2016 (Department of Health 2012) set the national and local strategic direction for sexual health with three principal indicators:

- A reduction in the under 18 conception rate
- A reduction in the proportion of people with HIV whose infection is diagnosed late
- An increase in Chlamydia diagnoses among young people in the target population

Contraception is key to good sexual and reproductive health. Community pharmacists are one of several settings where young people can access sexual health services and are well placed to provide accessible and convenient services. Increasing early access to free emergency hormonal contraception is one of many measures that has contributed to a reduction in unplanned teenage conception rates.

Chlamydia is the most common bacterial sexually transmitted infection¹, with sexually active young adults at highest risk. As chlamydia often has no symptoms and can have serious health consequences, opportunistic screening remains an essential element of good quality sexual health services for young adults.

This service is commissioned as part of a whole system approach to improving sexual health outcomes in Devon and Torbay. For more information on sexual and reproductive health in Devon and Torbay please refer to local Health Needs Assessments published in 2017^{2,3}

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sexually-transmitted-infections-stis-annual-data-tables> Information on STI diagnoses and sexual health services provided in England by demographic characteristics and geographical region. – Updated June 2018 accessed July 2018

² <http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/library/needs-assessments/>

³ <http://www.torbay.gov.uk/council/policies/health/srhna/>

2. SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

This service is commissioned for community pharmacies to provide free oral Emergency Hormonal Contraception to women between the ages of 13 and 24 years inclusive as specified within the Patient Group Directions (PGDs) for Levonorgestrel, and Ulipristal Acetate authorised by Devon County Council and Torbay Council Public Health. To provide a high quality, accessible and effective Emergency Hormonal Contraception and Chlamydia Screening Service pharmacies must deliver the service in accordance with the following requirements:

2.1 Service description

- Emergency hormonal contraception should only be provided by an accredited pharmacist who has completed the training specified under the PGD authorised by Devon County Council and Torbay Council Public Health
- If an accredited pharmacist is unavailable the young person should be notified when an accredited pharmacist will be available or signposted as an immediate priority (given the time sensitive nature of EHC) to the nearest service where EHC can be obtained, or IUD fitted
- The pharmacist must provide the service in person to women between the ages of 13 and 24 years inclusive, who meet the inclusion criteria of the PGD authorised by Devon County Council and Torbay Council Public Health
- The pharmacist must use the **flowchart** in *Appendix A of the Protocol for the provision of EHC by community pharmacists* which is in the PGD suite of documents for the provision of Emergency Contraception by community pharmacists in the Devon County Council and Torbay Council areas, to ensure that they have sufficient information to decide on the appropriateness of the supply
- Where clinically indicated provide oral EHC as specified in the PGD for Levonorgestrel or Ulipristal Acetate and record whether the medication was witnessed as taken within the pharmacy
- A proactive offer of Chlamydia screening and a Chlamydia screening kit should be included in the EHC consultation
- Counter-top screening kits should be displayed at the point of sale to enable 16-24-year-olds to opportunistically pick up a kit without a face-to-face consultation with the pharmacist
- 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 the *Devon Sexual Health Service* (<https://www.devonsexualhealth.nhs.uk/>) will be provided
- Routinely undertake a competence assessment in accordance with Fraser Guidelines for people under 16, and aged 16 and 17, as part of the assessment and decision-making process to supply oral EHC
- Safeguarding concerns must be considered for all ages including those under 16 years of age who are not considered to be Gillick competent as per Fraser Guidelines. Safeguarding issues must be addressed as per locally agreed safeguarding training and standards.
- Provide appropriate sexual health promotion and onward signposting and referral to specialist sexual health services where required
- 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 (temporarily or permanently) at the pharmacy
- See exclusion criteria at Section 5 of the specification (accredited pharmacist availability)

2.2 Records

- Pharmacists must ensure that all the relevant fields in the PharmOutcomes template are correctly completed, whether oral EHC is issued or not. The PharmOutcomes electronic record will be the only required method of record keeping.
- Pharmacists must obtain their own individual PharmOutcomes log-in from Pinnacle, as registration of activity under multiple store log-in is not acceptable.

2.3 Accreditation and training standards

Sufficient suitably qualified and appropriately trained and vetted staff must be available in the pharmacy to deliver this service. All pharmacists delivering the service must be registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and meet the training and safeguarding standards on Appendix B of the *Protocol for the provision of EHC by community pharmacists* which is in the PGD suite of documents of *for the provision of Emergency Contraception by community pharmacists in the Devon County Council (DCC) and Torbay Council areas*.

2.4 Monitoring and audit

All activity must be reported through Pharm Outcomes. The pharmacist should record the consultation in accordance with local service specifications and any agreed electronic reporting mechanisms, including time and date of consultation. The pharmacy will participate in any service audits deemed necessary by Devon County Council and Torbay Council public health.

2.5 Client consent to data sharing

The young person must give consent for their anonymised data to be shared with Devon County Council or Torbay Council.

2.6 Patient Safety and Incident Reporting

Section B11 *Clinical governance and incidents requiring reporting*, requires that if the Provider gives a notification to the CQC or any other Regulatory Body which directly or indirectly concerns any Service User, the Provider must send a copy of it to the Authority within 5 Business Days or within the timescale set out in Appendix (G) *Incidents Requiring Reporting Procedure* (appendices from the *Contract for the provision of pharmacy based public health services*.) The pharmacist is required to report to the Public Health Commissioner as soon as reasonably practicable and timely all significant events associated with this service (including and not limited to):

- Persons under 13 years of age requesting the service
- Situations where the Safeguarding Children Team are involved
- Any complaints made about the provision of the EHC and Chlamydia screening service
- Significant clinical events.

3. COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Commissioner Responsibilities

Devon County Council and Torbay Council public health commissioners will ensure that the following support is available to community pharmacies and pharmacists, to support the delivery of the services outlined in this specification:

- A current and appropriately authorised version of both the Levonorgestrel 1500, and Ulipristal Acetate PGD and accompanying protocol, is directly distributed and/or available to community pharmacists on the designated Pharmacy web platform (currently PharmOutcomes)
- The service template for Levonorgestrel 1500 and Ulipristal Acetate on the designated Pharmacy web platform, reflects current clinical practice and national and local guidance
- On completion of the designated CPPE EHC & Safeguarding learning and assessment modules, community pharmacists in Devon and Torbay will be able to access a final training session provided by *Devon Sexual Health* (see PDG suite of documents, including the *Protocol for the Provision of Emergency Contraception by community pharmacists in the Devon County Council (DCC) and Torbay Council areas*)
- Supplies of Chlamydia screening kits for use in community pharmacies contracted to provide the EHC service, will be available through *Devon Sexual Health* (see PGD suite of documents, including the *Protocol for the provision of Emergency Contraception by community pharmacists in the Devon County Council (DCC) and Torbay Council areas*)
- A database of “active accredited pharmacies” for the Devon and Torbay areas will be regularly updated by the Devon and Torbay public health teams and be available on the *Devon Sexual Health* website (<https://www.devonsexualhealth.nhs.uk/>), under the ‘*Find a service*’ function. This site also contains all other Devon and Torbay sexual and reproductive health sites.
- Provision of updates on the service via the local pharmaceutical committee (LPC) website; numbers of EHC issued; numbers of Chlamydia screening kits issued; chlamydia positivity rates.
- Audit and review of community pharmacies providing this service to determine how the needs of the population are being met

4. POPULATION COVER AND ELIGIBILITY

This specification covers the provision of the community pharmacy Emergency Hormonal Contraception and Chlamydia screening service, for 13-24-year-olds in the Devon County Council and Torbay Council geographical areas.

Countertop Chlamydia screening kits are also available for young people aged 16-24 not presenting for EHC.

5. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Target population: young people under the age of 13 and adults aged 25 years and over are excluded from this service. Those aged 25 years and over should be signposted to the nearest alternative service where EHC can be obtained, or IUD fitted.

If there is a concern that sexual activity has taken place involving a child aged 12 or under, the pharmacist should always speak to their identified safeguarding lead or senior manager within their pharmacy and keep a record of the consultation. A referral to sexual health services may be required and the pharmacist may need to telephone ahead to arrange an appointment for the young person.

6. INTERDEPENDENCIES WITH OTHER SERVICES

Pharmacists will maintain working relationships with all relevant services, agencies, and disciplines as appropriate to support the delivery of the service outlined in this specification and undertake referral and signposting as specified.

7. NATIONAL AND LOCAL STANDARDS

The following national guidance and service delivery standards are as follows:

- Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health Guideline Emergency Contraception
<https://www.fsrh.org/news/fsrh-launches-new-emergency-contraception-guideline/>
- National Chlamydia Screening Programme standards (7th Edition)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/574351/NCSP_Standards_7th_edition.pdf
- Safeguarding Children Devon County Council:
<https://www.devonchildrenandfamiliespartnership.org.uk/>
- Safeguarding Children Torbay Council:
<http://www.torbaysafeguarding.org.uk/>
- Safeguarding Adults Devon County Council:
<https://new.devon.gov.uk/devonsafeguardingadultsboard/>
- Safeguarding Adults Torbay Council:
<https://www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/services/safeguarding-adults/>
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Devon County Council:
<https://new.devon.gov.uk/dsva/>
- Domestic and Sexual Violence Torbay Council:
<http://www.areyouok.co.uk/directory/torbay-domestic-abuse-service/>
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/9/contents>

8. PRICING AND PAYMENT

See Appendix E for charges in the contract for pharmacy based public health services.
Payment will be made via the Devon County Council and Torbay Council processes outlined in contract.

9. CONTACTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACTS: COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

Pharmacies in the Devon County Council area:
Public Health Devon, Devon County Council, County Hall
Topsham Road Exeter EX2 4QD
Email: health.publichealthcontracting-mailbox@devon.gov.uk
Telephone: 01392 38300 ask for Public Health

Pharmacies in the Torbay Council area:
Public Health Team, Torbay Council
Tor Hill House, Higher Union Street,,
Torquay, TQ2 5QW
Email: publichealth@torbay.gov.uk
Telephone: 01803 201201 ask for Public Health

