

Community Pharmacy Briefing: NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service (Supply of Oral Contraceptives)

Issued: January 2024

Purpose of Document:

To support community pharmacies in Kent and Medway during provision of the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service (Tier 1 and 2) in conjunction with the Patient Group Directives (PGD) and service specification document. The latest versions can be accessed via [NHS England » NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service](#).

Background:

Community pharmacies registered to provide the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service may supply oral contraceptives under conditions specified within the associated PGDs and service specification document. The PGD documents include a requirement for community pharmacies to ensure that the choice of product is selected in accordance with the local Integrated Care Board's (ICB) formulary.

At the time of this briefing being issued, Kent and Medway ICB are in the process of developing one harmonised formulary across the area to replace the formularies currently in existence for each of the four Health and Care Partnership (HCP) areas. These are Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley, East Kent, Medway and Swale and West Kent. The four formularies currently in existence may recommend differing brands/products from each other depending on the needs of the area at the time of the formulary's development.

In the interim, this briefing serves to support community pharmacies in supplying oral contraceptives NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service with a unified approach across Kent and Medway. The advice will be reviewed once the new formulary is in place across the area.

Actions for Community Pharmacies:

When initiating treatment, the pharmacy should make a clinical decision as to which type of oral contraception is appropriate for each patient in accordance with the associated PGDs and service specification, and supply generically where possible, to ensure best value for money for the NHS.

For ongoing supply of oral contraception, the pharmacy should continue to supply the patient with the same product, unless this becomes clinically inappropriate due to a change in the patient's circumstances.

If it is not clinically appropriate to supply a generic product for clinical reasons (such as allergy to ingredients in a certain brand) and a brand must be supplied and claimed for, a rationale should be provided within the patients documented notes. The audit of supply of medicines during the provision of the service will form part of ongoing contract management and assurance by commissioners.

Formulary Pages

Please see the below webpages for the local formularies:

- Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley (DGS): www.dgsdvhformulary.nhs.uk
- East Kent: www.eastkentformulary.nhs.uk
- Medway and Swale: www.medwayswaleformulary.co.uk
- West Kent: www.formularywkccgmtw.co.uk