

**Public Health Agreement**  
**for the**  
**Provision of Emergency Contraception Service via a Patient Group Direction in**  
**Pharmacy**

**1<sup>ST</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2028**

**BETWEEN** Surrey County Council **AND** Pharmacy

1. Introduction
2. Service Description
3. Aims and Intended Service Outcomes
4. Service Outline
5. Requirements
6. Quality Indicators
7. Fees

## **Service Specification for Provision of Emergency Contraception Service via a Patient Group Direction**

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Emergency contraception, or post-coital contraception, refers to methods of contraception that can be used to prevent pregnancy in the first few days after intercourse. It is intended for emergency use following unprotected intercourse, contraceptive failure or misuse (such as forgotten pills or torn condoms). Emergency contraception is effective only in the first few days following intercourse before the ovum is released from the ovary and before the sperm fertilizes the ovum. Any patient of reproductive age may need emergency contraception at some point to avoid an unwanted pregnancy. This public health agreement covers the provision of Levonorgestrel and Ulipristal acetate in line with the local PGD.
- 1.2 Surrey County Council Public Health Team strongly encourages pharmacies offer both emergency contraception and chlamydia screening and treatment services as this enables patients to address immediate sexual health needs in one location. It promotes early detection and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) while also offering access to preventing unintended pregnancy. This is particularly important for young people who might not readily seek these services elsewhere; this approach helps to normalise sexual health conversations and encourages proactive care.
- 1.3 The provision of emergency contraception (EC) in community pharmacies generates significant social value by reducing the incidence of unintended pregnancies and supporting individuals in make informed reproductive health choices. The delivery of this service helps mitigate the emotional and financial burdens associated with unplanned pregnancies, benefiting individuals, their families, and the wider community. Additionally, it raises awareness about reproductive health, contraception options, and the importance of timely intervention, thereby promoting overall well-being and gender equality. It aligns with the commitment to improving overall public health and wellbeing in Surrey and ensuring no one is left behind.

### **2.0 Service description**

- 2.1 Pharmacists will supply Levonorgestrel Emergency Contraception (EC) or Ulipristal acetate when appropriate to clients, in line with the requirements of the locally agreed Patient Group Direction (PGD). The PGD will specify the age range of clients that are eligible for the service.
- 2.2 Pharmacies will be reimbursed at the drug tariff price when dispensing Levonorgestrel and Ulipristal acetate. The Price Concession prices will be reimbursed such as, a medicines shortage.
- 2.3 Pharmacies will offer a user-friendly, non-judgmental, client-centred and confidential service.
- 2.4 The supply will be made free of charge to the client at Surrey County Council expense.

- 2.5 Pharmacies will link into existing networks for community contraceptive services so that patients who need to see a doctor can be referred on rapidly.
- 2.6 Clients excluded from the PGD criteria will be referred to another local service that will be able to assist them, as soon as possible, e.g. GP, Specialist Integrated Sexual Health Service.
- 2.7 Clients over 25 may be supplied with the pharmacy medicine product under the PGD at the pharmacist's discretion. When discretion is used, the pharmacist is requested to use the notes field within PharmOutcomes to briefly explain the reason for this decision. This will enable a better understanding of unmet needs and potential health inequalities residents are experiencing and will not be used as a monitoring tool.
- 2.8 The pharmacy will provide support and advice to clients accessing the service, including advice on the avoidance of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) through safer sex and condom use, advice on the use of regular contraceptive methods and provide onward signposting to services that provide long-term contraceptive methods and diagnosis and management of STIs.
- 2.9 Pharmacists must have completed all the required training as stated in the PGD to be able to provide this service in Surrey. See section 5.

### **3.0 Aims and intended service outcomes**

- 3.1 To increase the knowledge, especially among young people, of the availability of emergency contraception and contraception from pharmacies.
- 3.2 To improve access to emergency contraception and sexual health advice.
- 3.3 To increase the use of EC by women who have had unprotected sex and help contribute to a reduction in the number of unplanned pregnancies in the client group.
- 3.4 To refer clients into mainstream contraceptive services if required.
- 3.5 To increase the knowledge of risks associated with Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs).
- 3.6 To refer clients who may have been at risk of STIs to an appropriate service.
- 3.7 To strengthen the local network of contraceptive and sexual health services to help ensure easy and swift access to advice.

### **4.0 Service outline**

- 4.1 The area of the pharmacy used for the provision of the service must provide a sufficient level of safety and privacy including visual privacy in a private consultation room.
- 4.2 A service will be provided that assesses the need and suitability for a client to receive EC, in line with the PGD. Where appropriate a supply will be made; where a supply of EC is not appropriate, advice and referral to another source of assistance, if appropriate, will be provided. Clients who have exceeded the time limit for EC will be

informed about the possibility of use of an Intra Uterine Device (IUD) and should be referred to a local service as soon as possible.

- 4.3 Inclusion and exclusion criteria, which are detailed in the PGD, will be applied during provision of the service.
- 4.4 The service will be provided in compliance with Fraser guidance: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/gillick-competence-fraser-guidelines#skip-to-content> and the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health (FSRH) Service Standard on Obtaining Valid Consent - October 2022 <https://www.fsrh.org/standards-and-guidance/documents/service-standard-on-obtaining-valid-consent-october-2022/>
- 4.5 The service protocols should reflect national and local child and vulnerable adult protection guidelines.
- 4.6 Verbal and written advice on the avoidance of STIs and the use of regular contraceptive methods, including advice on the use of condoms, will be provided to the client. This should be supplemented by a referral to a service that can provide treatment and further advice and care.
- 4.7 Condoms: as part of ongoing prevention, 3 condoms can be given out with the EC. Pharmacies can request a supply of condoms for this purpose from [publichealthclaims@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:publichealthclaims@surreycc.gov.uk). There is no additional payment for giving 3 condoms with the EC supply and is part of the EC supply. This supply is not part of the c-card scheme.  
  
Alternatively, encourage sign up to the c-card condom distribution scheme (for under 25s). The Surrey c-card condom distribution scheme (CDS) should be promoted as part of 'wrap around care'. Young people should be directed to the Healthy Surrey website's CDS page - [Young people's sexual health services \(under 25 year olds\) | Healthy Surrey](https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/sexual-health/contraception) <https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/sexual-health/contraception>. Pharmacies can also sign up the Public Health Agreement for delivering the c-card CDS in house. Contact [publichealthclaims@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:publichealthclaims@surreycc.gov.uk) for more information.
- 4.8 STI testing: Chlamydia and gonorrhoea testing kits, provided by the Specialist sexual health service for distribution in the pharmacy should be offered to the client following the provision of EC. The client should be encouraged to take the testing kit unless they specifically decline it.
- 4.9 The pharmacy contractor has a duty to ensure that pharmacists involved in the provision of the service have relevant knowledge and are appropriately trained in the operation of the service, including sensitive, client centred communication skills. This may be facilitated by the provision of local training by The Council or via Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE).
- 4.10 Contractors and pharmacists are duty bound to keep their knowledge updated in this area of practice and regularly check the Faculty of Sexual Health & Reproductive Healthcare Clinical Guidance.
- 4.11 The pharmacy contractor has a duty to ensure that pharmacists involved in the provision of the service are aware of and operate within local protocols, including safeguarding and patient safety incident policies.

- 4.12 The pharmacy must maintain appropriate records to ensure effective ongoing service delivery and audit. Records will be confidential and should be stored securely and for a length of time in line with local NHS record retention policies.
- 4.13 Pharmacists may need to share relevant information with other health care professionals and agencies, in line with locally determined confidentiality arrangements, including, where appropriate, the need for the permission of the client to share the information. Pharmacists should refer to their safeguarding policies.
- 4.14 The Council may arrange at least one contractor meeting per year to promote service development and update pharmacy staff with new developments, knowledge and evidence.
- 4.15 The Council and the Specialist Sexual Health Service will provide up to date details of other services which pharmacy staff can use to refer clients who require further assistance. The information should include the location, hours of opening and services provided by each service provider. Visit Healthy Surrey: <https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/sexual-health> or <https://www.sexualhealth.cnwl.nhs.uk/> for more information on local sexual health services in Surrey.
- 4.16 The Council and the Specialist Sexual Health Service will advise on which publicity materials (including leaflets on EC, long-term contraception and STIs) pharmacies can use to promote the service to the public. Please contact Public Health or the Specialist Sexual Health Service for further details.
- 4.17 Contractors are responsible for making their claims within the required time frames using PharmOutcomes, currently no claims over 3 months old will be paid
- 4.18 Remuneration by The Council will be at an agreed rate for the consultation given and a separate payment for remuneration of the drug costs. This rate will be at the rate laid down in the Drug Tariff for the month of supply.

## **5.0 Requirements**

- 5.1 Pharmacists wishing to provide this service will be required to attend the Specialist Sexual Health Service and Council arranged training events and must have completed the following CPPE open learning packs on:

- Sexual Health in Pharmacies
  - Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults
- Available here: <https://www.cppe.ac.uk/gateway/ehc>

Attendance at any Specialist Sexual Health Service and Council arranged workshops and annual update workshops arranged thereafter is encouraged as good practice.

- 5.2 All pharmacists accredited to provide EC must have registered with CPPE learning record online before approval to supply will be given by the Commissioner.
- 5.3 If a trained pharmacist leaves the pharmacy, it is the responsibility of the provider to let the commissioner know there is a vacancy and who is replacing them, with a timeframe.

## **6.0 Quality Indicators**

- 6.1 The pharmacy has appropriate health promotion material available (as advised by the Council and the Specialist Sexual Health Service) for the client group, actively promotes its uptake and is able to discuss the contents of the material with the client, where appropriate.
- 6.2 The pharmacy reviews its standard operating procedures and the referral pathways for the service regularly.
- 6.3 The pharmacy participates in a Council organised audit of service supply annually when required.
- 6.4 The pharmacy co-operates with any locally agreed Council-led assessment of client experience such as working towards 'You're Welcome Quality Criteria' accreditation.
- 6.5 By providing this public health service you agree to sharing of anonymised activity data with Surrey LPC for the purposes of service development.

## **7.0 Fees**

- 7.1 Payment will be made monthly in arrears.
- 7.2 All claims are made via PharmOutcomes made available by the public health team.
- 7.3 Payment Structure see Appendix 1.

## Appendix 1

### Payment Structure - Emergency Contraception

Consultation	£18.50
Treatment – Levonorgestrel (Standard drug)	Latest drug tariff price on PharmOutcomes
Levonorgestrel double dose (exception)	Latest drug tariff price on PharmOutcomes
Ulipristal acetate 30mg tablet	Latest drug tariff price on PharmOutcomes