

This pharmacy statewide drug therapy protocol authorizes qualified New Hampshire-licensed pharmacists ("Pharmacists") to perform the pertinent physical assessments and prescribe hormonal contraceptives under the conditions of this protocol and according to and in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and rules.

Definitions

(1) "Clinical visit" means a consultation with a healthcare provider, other than a pharmacist, for women's health, which should address contraception and age-appropriate screening.

(2) "Hormonal contraceptives" means pills, shots, patches and rings which the US FDA classifies as available by prescription for the purpose of contraception or emergency contraception. It does not include similar items classified as "over the counter" by the FDA.

Training Program

Only a New Hampshire-licensed pharmacist, who has completed an Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) accredited educational training program related to the prescribing of contraceptives by a pharmacist, may dispense hormonal contraceptives to a patient. In addition, pharmacists shall comply with the most current United States Medical Eligibility Criteria (USMEC) for Contraceptive Use as adopted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Age Requirements

A pharmacist may prescribe hormonal contraceptive patches and self-administered oral hormonal contraceptives to a person who is at least 18 years of age.

Further Conditions

(1) For each new patient requesting a contraceptive service and, at a minimum of every twelve months for each returning patient, a participating pharmacist must: (a) Obtain a completed New Hampshire Self-Screening Risk Assessment Questionnaire;

(b) Utilize and follow the New Hampshire Standard Procedures Algorithm to perform the patient assessment;

(c) Prescribe, if clinically appropriate, the hormonal contraceptive, or refer to a healthcare practitioner;

(d) Provide the patient with a Visit Summary;

(e) Advise the patient to consult with a primary care practitioner or women's health care practitioner;

(f) Refer any patient that may be subject to abuse to an appropriate social services agency; and

(g) Ensure that the pharmacy provides appropriate space to prevent the spread of infection and ensure confidentiality.

(2) If the hormonal contraceptive is dispensed, it must be done as soon as practicable after the pharmacist issues the prescription and shall include any relevant educational materials.

(3) A pharmacist must not:

(a) Require a patient to schedule an appointment with the pharmacist for the prescribing or dispensing of a hormonal contraceptive;

(b) Continue to prescribe and dispense a hormonal contraceptive to a patient beyond three years from the initial prescription without evidence of a clinical visit; or

(c) Prescribe in instances that the New Hampshire Standard Procedures Algorithm requires referral to a provider.

(4) Records: A process shall be in place for the pharmacist to communicate with the patient's primary care provider and document changes to the patient's medical record. If the patient does not have a primary care provider, or is unable to provide contact information for his or her primary care provider, the pharmacist shall provide the patient with a written record of the drugs or devices furnished and advise the patient to consult an appropriate health care professional of the patient's choice.

Statewide Drug Therapy Protocol- Means a protocol developed by the Board of Pharmacy , the Board of Medicine, the Board of Nursing in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Rule-making authority for these parties to develop the above rules