

Community Pharmacist Initiative

Resupply of the Oral Contraceptive Pill

This information sheet contains information about a new initiative whereby approved pharmacists can now resupply the oral contraceptive pill. It also provides details on costs, information for after your consultation and where to find additional support if needed.

Approved community pharmacists can now provide a resupply of the oral contraceptive pill (up to a maximum of 12 months). Eligible Tasmanians have the choice of seeing a pharmacist to extend their prescription for the oral contraceptive pill, saving a visit to the GP to obtain a repeat prescription.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a resupply of your oral contraceptive pill (the pill), you must meet the following criteria:

- Be a female or gender diverse person with female biology
- Be aged between **16 to 50 years** (inclusive)
- Have taken the pill continuously for two years as prescribed by a doctor or other prescriber
- Have had at least one review of the pill within the last two years by a doctor or other prescriber

People with or without a Medicare card and international students are eligible under this initiative.

Please note, not all oral contraceptive pills will be available under this initiative.

If you have run out of repeats, or your prescription has expired and you meet the above criteria, you are likely to be eligible for resupply of the pill.

Your consultation

To ensure you receive safe and appropriate care, your pharmacist will meet with you in a private consulting room.

What to expect during the consultation

The pharmacist will ask you questions to help them decide if they should resupply your pill or refer you to a doctor. If your pharmacist refers you to your doctor, they will explain the reasons to you.

These may include:

- Your medical history
- You are requesting a different type of pill or an alternative form of contraception.
- Your current pill is unsuitable.
- You are experiencing vaginal bleeding that is unexplained and has not been assessed by a doctor.
- You may be pregnant.
- STI (sexually transmitted infection) screening is recommended for you. However, your pharmacist may still supply your oral contraceptive pill, if appropriate.

After your consultation

If you experience any new symptoms of concern when you are taking your pill, please see your doctor.

Consent to Treatment and Privacy

Your consent is needed to receive a resupply of the Pill from a pharmacist under this new initiative. Your pharmacist is committed to protecting your privacy during your participation. Your pharmacist will ask if you consent to the following prior to undertaking a clinical consultation with you.

Compulsory:

1. *Consent to being asked health questions, recommending treatment and any costs involved.*

Your pharmacist will ask if you consent to being assessed and treated and will inform you of any costs involved up-front. If you do not consent your pharmacist will be unable to resupply the Pill under this initiative and will advise you to see a doctor.

2. *Consent to collect and use personal health information.*

If you consent, your pharmacist will collect and store information required for your treatment (contact details and information about your medical history, including use of an oral contraceptive pill).

Optional but recommended:

3. *Consent to access and upload to My Health Record*

If you have a My Health Record, the pharmacist may choose to access your record to assist with your assessment and send details of resupply of the Pill. If you do not want your My Health Record accessed or added to – please advise the pharmacist.

4. *Consent to share information with your doctor*

If you consent, a report will be provided to your usual doctor at the end of the consultation.

Where to get more information

For more information, please visit the following websites:

- Tasmanian Department of Health – Contraception (fertility control)
<https://www.health.tas.gov.au/health-topics/sexual-and-reproductive-health/reproductive-health/contraception-fertility-control>
- Family Planning Tasmania Website
<https://fpt.org.au/clinics/services/>
- Health Direct
<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/contraception-options>

What will it cost?

The pharmacist will discuss and explain costs with you, you will be required to pay the private prescription fee for the oral contraceptive pill.

How do I report a concern about my safety or care relating to this initiative?

You are encouraged to initially raise concerns directly with the pharmacy, if you are unhappy with their response or feel it is not appropriate to contact the pharmacy directly, you can report to, or seek advice from, the project team at the Department of Health pharmacyscope@health.tas.gov.au. You may choose to report your concern to AHPRA (www.ahpra.gov.au) (phone: 1300 374 377) or the Tasmanian Health Complaints Commissioner (www.healthcomplaints.tas.gov.au) (phone: 1800 001 170).