

PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION FOR LEVONORGESTREL 1500 mcg  
TABLETS

Version:EC 2020.1

Start Date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Expiry Date: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

---

THIS PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION HAS BEEN AGREED BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

**Lancashire County Council**

**Blackburn with Darwen Council**

# CLINICAL CONTENT OF PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION FOR LEVONORGESTREL 1500 mcg TABLETS

Version EC- 2020.1

## Protocol Details

Date comes into effect	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020
Date of expiry + review	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023 or earlier in the light of significant changes in best practice

### Staff characteristics

- An accredited community pharmacist with current GPhC registration supplying as part of the EHC scheme, who has undertaken training relating to the provision of emergency contraception.
- Commissioned by Lancashire County Council and/or Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Public Health Departments.
- Understands and accepts the principles relating to PGDs and relevant clinical situations.
- Have evidence of Continuous Personal Development (CPD)
- Sign the approved Patient Group Direction (PGD) for the supply of emergency hormonal contraception by a community pharmacist from a community pharmacy, and agree to work in accordance with the PGD.
- Provide the CPPE (or equivalent) EHC 'Declaration of Competence' (DoC) documentation. Records of assessment for all programmes must be retained by the pharmacy contractor, together with the EHC PGD.
- Have appropriate indemnity insurance to provide this service.
- Undertake reassessment of competence to deliver the EHC service is recommended at least every 3 years.
- Undertake Disclosure and Barring <https://www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check/tracking-application-getting-certificate>

All must have undertaken training regarding working under patient group directions  
**>> YOU MUST BE AUTHORISED BY NAME, UNDER THE CURRENT VERSION <<  
>> OF THIS PGD BEFORE WORKING UNDER IT <<**

## Clinical Details

<b>Indication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women who are unable/unwilling to have an IUD inserted at the time of requesting EC</li> <li>• Prevention of pregnancy within 72 hours of unprotected sexual intercourse or failure of a contraceptive method</li> <li>• Prevention of pregnancy within 72-96 hours of unprotected sex or failure of a contraceptive method where Ulipristal Acetate (UPA) is contraindicated or unable to be provided free of charge at the time of requesting EC</li> <li>• Have been given information regarding the other methods available for EC and provided with information on the services that provide them, but decides not to access them</li> <li>• Prevention of pregnancy within 96 hours of unprotected sexual intercourse or failure of a contraceptive method when taking or have taken in the previous 28 days, liver enzyme inducing drugs eg: carbamazepine, nevirapine, oxcarbazepine, phenytoin, primidone and other barbiturates, rifabutin, rifampicin, ritonavir, modafinil, eslicarbazepine, rufinamide, efavirnez, bosentan and aprepitant, St Johns Wort or topirimate</li> <li>• Prevention of pregnancy if patient unwilling to cease hormonal contraception for 5 days after Ulipristal Acetate EC, Levonorgestrel EC can be considered following full discussion surrounding efficiency of both oral methods of EC.</li> <li>• If the woman has used any hormonal contraception in the 7 day prior to UPSI</li> <li>• If a woman is referred for a copper intrauterine device (CU-IUD) levonorgestrel EC should be given at the time of referral in case the CU-IUD cannot be fitted or the woman changes her mind.</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusion criteria</b>	<p><b>Competent woman (assess formally if aged under 16 or if competence in doubt) presenting within 72 hours of unprotected sexual intercourse or between 72 and 96 hours of unprotected sexual intercourse if UPA is contraindicated, whether due to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No contraception used or failed barrier method of contraception</li> <li>• Missed or incorrectly used combined or progestogen only contraceptive pill/patch/ring</li> <li>• Contraceptive pill vomited or method affected by diarrhoea or medicines.</li> <li>• Late contraceptive injection</li> <li>• Expired or impalpable contraceptive implant</li> <li>• Removal of IUC and failure of immediate replacement or partial/complete expulsion and the woman has had UPSI in the previous 96 hours</li> <li>• Vomited supplied course of EC and represented in 3 hours of taking it providing the UPSI is within the previous 96 hours</li> <li>• Loss of protection following commencement or change in contraceptive method.</li> <li>• Women who cannot be reassured that they are not at risk of pregnancy.</li> </ul> <p>Assessment of competence is satisfactory according to current guidelines e.g. Fraser guidelines and Mental Capacity Act. All sexually active under 13 years' olds must be discussed with the nominated child protection lead in the organisation and there should be a presumption that the case will be referred to children's social care. However this should not prevent treatment if considered necessary under this PGD.</p>
<b>Exclusion criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypersensitivity/previous severe adverse reaction to levonorgestrel or any ingredient</li> <li>• Hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption</li> <li>• Patient who decides to access ulipristal acetate from an alternative provider</li> <li>• If the woman has taken UPA in the previous 5 days.</li> </ul>
<b>Management of Excluded Patients</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer for an emergency IUD. A copper IUD can be fitted up to 5 days after a single episode of UPSI in a cycle or up to 5 days after the earliest ovulation date expected within a regular cycle</li> <li>• If more than 72 hours or 96 hours if unable to have UPA, since episode of unprotected intercourse, refer to the next sexual health clinic or other suitable facility for assessment</li> <li>• Refer other excluded women for urgent medical review</li> </ul>

**Action for patients not wishing to receive care under this PGD**

- Make women aware of alternative sources of treatment. (GP, Sexual Health Services or Young Persons Services) Document refusal.

## CLINICAL CONTENT OF PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION FOR LEVONORGESTREL 1500 mcg TABLETS

Version PHEC- 2020.1

Description of Treatment	
Name of medicine	Levonorgestrel 1500 microgram tablets
Formulation and route	Oral tablet
Strength	1500 microgram per tablet
Dosage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 tablet (1.5mg) to be taken as soon as possible after unprotected sexual intercourse (preferably within 12 hours but no later than 72 hours or 96 hours where Ulipristal Acetate (UPA) is contraindicated or unable to be provided free of charge at the time of requesting EC</li> <li>• 2 tablets (3mg) to be taken as soon as possible after unprotected sexual intercourse up to 96 hours when the woman is taking or has taken in the last 28 days liver enzyme inducing drugs (unlicensed use) following FSRH Guidance 2017</li> <li>• 2 tablets (3mg) to be taken as soon as possible after unprotected sexual intercourse up to 96 hours when the woman has a BMI &gt;26 or weighs greater than 70kg (unlicensed use) following FSRH Guidance 2017.</li> <li>• 2 tablets (3mg) to be taken as soon as possible after unprotected sexual intercourse up to 96 hours when the BMI or weight cannot be recorded due to COVID 19 restrictions</li> </ul> <p><b>Dose is to be taken at the consultation; supplies are not to be given to take away unless issued as an advanced supply.</b></p>
Repeated dose instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NOTE:</b> Supply of the subsequent course in the same menstrual cycle is more likely to disrupt the normal menstrual pattern</li> <li>• Where a woman returns having vomited the first dose within 3 hours of taking it, a replacement dose should be given (and taken), as long as the replacement dose is also taken within 72 hours (and up to 96 hours if appropriate) of the episode of UPSI (unlicensed use)</li> <li>• Giving repeated doses of LNG may be effective and further UPSI may be an indication for repeat LNG use. As there is no evidence to indicate LNG is not safe in pregnancy, the CEU recommends that LNG can be used more than once in the same cycle or can be used for a recent episode of UPSI even if there has been an earlier episode of UPSI outside the treatment window (&gt;96 hours) (Outside product licence) No data were identified regarding a minimum time interval between successive LNG treatments. However, the CEU advises that if further UPSI occurs within 12 hours of a dose of LNG, further EC treatment is not required.</li> </ul>
Duration of treatment	Single dose
Quantity to supply	Dose is to be taken at the consultation, supplies are not to be given to take away unless issued as an advanced supply
Legal status	Prescription Only Medicine (POM)
Special Precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnancy greater than 21 days can be excluded with a negative test, ideally using first morning urine. Note that this will not necessarily show positive for earlier pregnancies</li> <li>• Women taking cicloporin should be advised that Levonorgestrel 1500 may increase risk of ciclosporin toxicity</li> <li>• Aprepitant can reduce the efficiency of hormonal contraception for the time of administration and the following 28 days</li> <li>• Bosentan can reduce the efficiency of hormonal contraception.</li> </ul>
Adverse effects	<p>Very common adverse effects (more than 1/10) may include headaches, nausea, lower abdominal pain and fatigue. Bleeding not related to menses. Common adverse effects (more than 1/100, less than 1/10) may include temporary breast tenderness, vomiting and diarrhoea and dizziness. Irregular menstruation.</p> <p>Refer to BNF and SPC for complete list.</p>

	<a href="http://www.bnf.org/bnf/">http://www.bnf.org/bnf/</a> <a href="http://emc.medicines.org.uk/">http://emc.medicines.org.uk/</a> Adverse effects should be reported using the yellow card system if appropriate- see CSM guidelines for use printed on cards on the back of the BNF or <a href="http://www.yellowcard.gov.uk">www.yellowcard.gov.uk</a> . Nurses and patients may now report independently.
--	---

<b>Advice necessary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to Womens assessments forms (either paper or IT records) while the woman is present</li> <li>• Advise that EC is not 100% effective- pregnancy can still occur</li> <li>• Advise if less than 21 days post-partum the risk of pregnancy is negligible</li> <li>• Advise that the menstrual cycle timing may be disrupted. Disruption is more likely if more than one course is taken in a menstrual cycle.</li> <li>• Give advice regarding action to take if tablets are vomited within 3 hours</li> <li>• Advise woman to seek medical advice if there is any lower abdominal pain, as ectopic pregnancies may occur following use, particularly at risk are women with a history of ectopic pregnancy, fallopian tube surgery or pelvic inflammatory disease. Women who become pregnant after EC use should seek medical follow up to exclude this</li> <li>• Discuss sexually transmitted infections, especially chlamydia, and refer to GUM where appropriate</li> <li>• If under 25 to be offered chlamydia screening as part of the national screening programme</li> <li>• Women suffering from severe malabsorption syndromes, such as Crohn's disease, should be strongly recommended to attend the next clinic for an emergency IUD</li> <li>• Give woman a supply of condoms in addition to EC and stress need to consistently use a reliable method of barrier contraception, or abstain from intercourse, until the next period or until contraceptive method becomes effective.</li> <li>• FPA leaflet to be emailed or link texted to the patient  <a href="http://www.fpa.org.uk/sites/default/files/emergancy-contraception-your-guide.pdf">http://www.fpa.org.uk/sites/default/files/emergancy-contraception-your-guide.pdf</a></li> <li>• Give the woman the information leaflet (PIL) from the medication packet</li> <li>• Referral to the appropriate provider for ongoing contraception if not available at time of EC.</li> </ul>
-------------------------	---

<b>Records and Follow Up</b>	
<b>Referral arrangements</b>	Refer all excluded patients for urgent GP/Sexual Health Services assessment
<b>Records to be kept</b>	As per service documentation requirements, ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full history recorded</li> <li>• Fraser assessments to be completed for all women under 16 and a safeguarding assessment for all under 18 years old (in line with local policies) or where competence is in doubt</li> <li>• Items or leaflets supplied to the woman</li> <li>• Document any adverse reactions</li> <li>• Comprehensive record made in sexual health notes/medical records</li> </ul>
<b>Follow up</b>	Ensure woman aware of local arrangements, e.g. Sexual Health Services and Clinics and is advised to return if any problems occur.  Advise woman attends an appropriate service with an Early Morning Urine (EMU) sample for a pregnancy test if no normal bleed within the next four weeks or if the next bleed is unusual in any way (light or heavy, painful etc.)

**Protocol, organisation and individual authorisation signatures can be found on the managerial content sheet along with other non-clinical details relating to this patient group direction.**

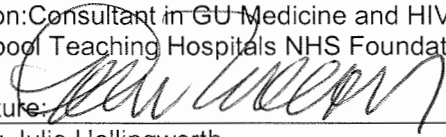


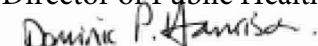
# MANAGERIAL CONTENT OF PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION FOR LEVONORGESTREL 1500 mcg TABLETS

Version PHEC- 2020.1

## Protocol Owner

<b>Details of protocol owner</b>	Name: Dr J Sweeney Position: Consultant in GU Medicine and HIV medicine  Contact Address: Sexual Health Services, Whitegate Health Centre, Whitegate Drive Blackpool, FY3 9ES Contact Telephone: 01253 956850 Contact Email: john.sweeney1@nhs.net
----------------------------------	--

## Protocol Authorisation

<b>Lead Doctor</b>	Name: Dr J Sweeney Position: Consultant in GU Medicine and HIV medicine Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  Signature:  Date: 2/4/20
<b>Lead Pharmacist</b>	Name: Julie Hollingworth Position: Pharmacy Lead – Community Health Services Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  Signature:  Date: 2/4/20
<b>Lead Nurse</b>	Name: Cath Shelley Position: Nurse Consultant – Sexual Health Blackpool Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Signature:  Date: 21/4/2020
<b>Organisational Authorisation by</b>	Name: Dominic Harrison Position: Director of Public Health and Wellbeing Signature:  Date: 21/04/2020

## Patient Group Direction Peer Reviewed By