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Charlotte Keel MEDICAL PRACTICE

Progesterone only pill (POP) pharmacy first referral

Version:	Owner:	Created:
1.1	J Godfrey	19.9.25
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16/09/2026	Rhys Hancock (Director of Nursing, AHPs and Governance.)	01/12/2028

Contents

Introduction

The Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS) is an advanced service commissioned by NHS Eng land, allowing community pharmacies to provide oral contraception (OC) and emergency contra ception (EC). The service commenced on April 24, 2023, and expanded to include both initiation and ongoing supply of OC on December 1, 2023. The service aims to offer greater choice and access to contraception services, support highisk communities, and create capacity in primary c are and sexual health clinics. The service is integrated with existing services and community ph armacies to enable greater choice and widen access to services.

Due to patient vulnerabilities within our practice, health inequalities and language barriers CKMP have agreed patients over the age of 18 year up until and including 54 years taking agreed progesterone only pills can access their medication via the pharmacy first referral

Scope

Pharmacy First inclusion criteria adapted to meet CKMP agreed SOP

Inclusion criteria

To be eligible to access this service a person must:

- Be an individual seeking to be initiated on a POP, or seeking to obtain a further supply of their ongoing POP:

  Progestogen Only Pill (POP):-

  Norethisterone, Levonorgestrel and Desogestrel – from menarche up to and including 54 years of age.

  Drospirenone only – 18 up to and including 49 years

Exclusion criteria

They are considered clinically unsuitable, or are excluded for supply of OC according to the PGD protocols

Under 18 years (Agreed as part of CKMP protocol)

Those lacking capacity

Processes for referral

Patients requiring Pop as result of consult with Sexual health nurse/GP clinicians:-

Patient reviewed and POP identified as most suitable method of contraception

3-month supply to be issued as a one-off script

Pharmacy first referral completed - patient advised future reviews and obtaining of POP will be via their chosen pharmacy

Send text to advise patient – Pre formatted text “POP Pharmacy first “which reads

“We have issued a 3-month supply of your progesterone only pill. You will now be contacted by your chosen pharmacy who will be taking over the review and issuing of this medication in the future.”

Patients requesting from Health Navigation team

Patients contact Health Navigation team requesting POP /Repeat prescription

Drugs list check - If patient on medication listed below – pharmacy first referral made – patient advised they will be followed up by pharmacy first and future reviews and obtaining of POP will be via their chosen pharmacy

Desogestrel
Zelleta
Cerazette
Cerelle
Hana
levonorgestrel
Norethisterone
Noriday
Drospirenone (4 mg)

If medication not listed above then book Sexual health tel con

Repeat prescription requests to Prescription team

Repeat script received for one of the following POP medications

Desogestrel

Cerazette
Cerelle
Hana
levonorgestrel
Norethisterone
Noriday
Drospirenone (4 mg)

Check fits criteria:-

Over 18 years up to and including 54 years of age.

Request to GP for POP Script – request for script to be edited as acute for 3 months only supply to enable patient to have immediate medication

Complete pharmacy first referral

Send text to advise patient – Pre formatted text “POP Pharmacy first “which reads

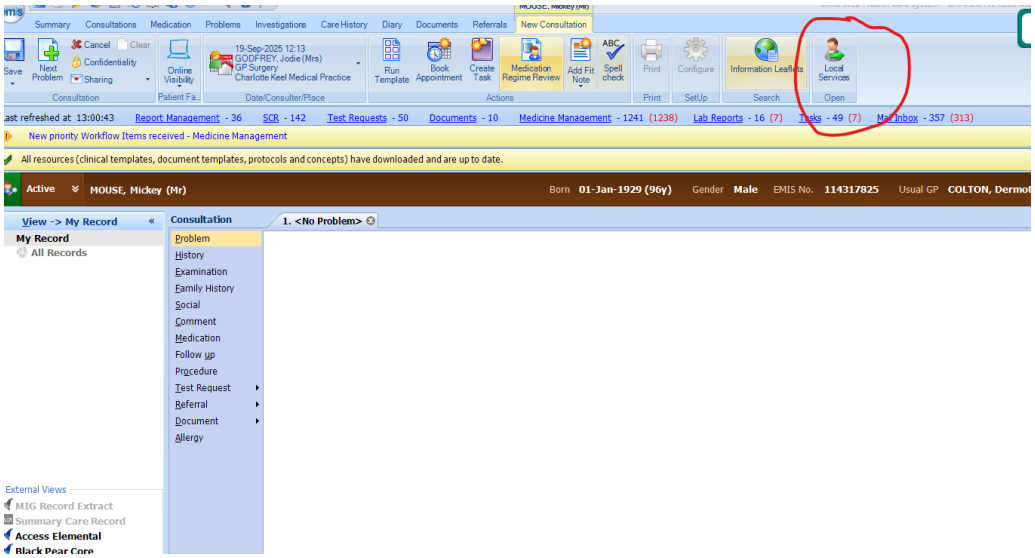
“We have issued a 3-month supply of your progesterone only pill. You will now be contacted by your chosen pharmacy who will be taking over the review and issuing of this medication in the future.”

If medication not listed proceed request script as normal

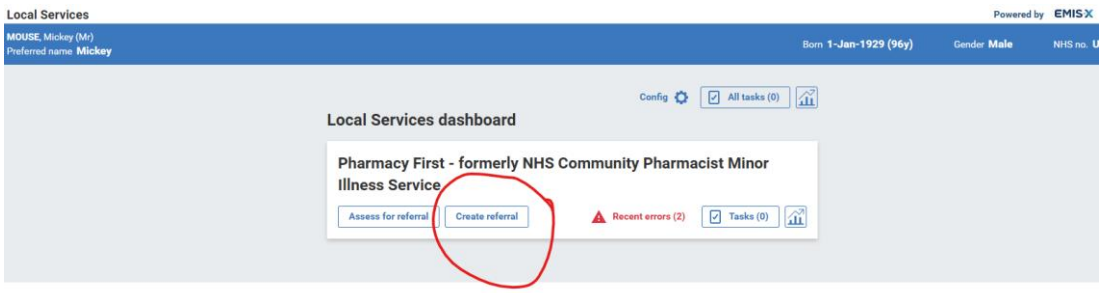
Making a pharmacy first referral

Have patient consultation open

Click local services

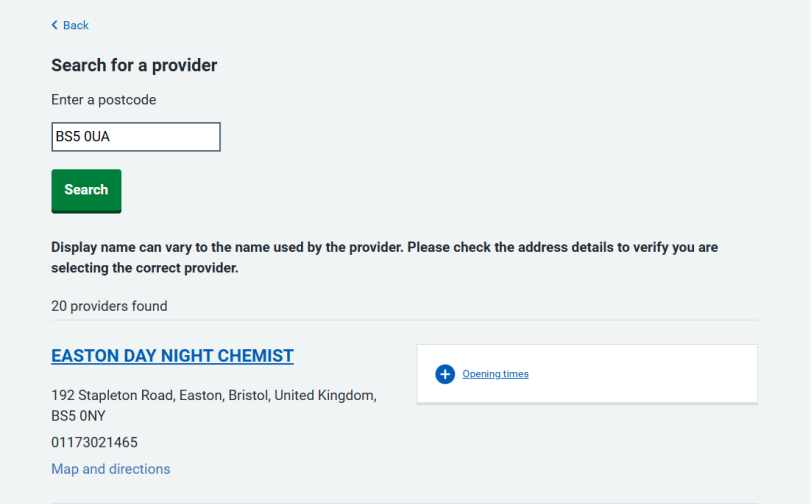


Create ref

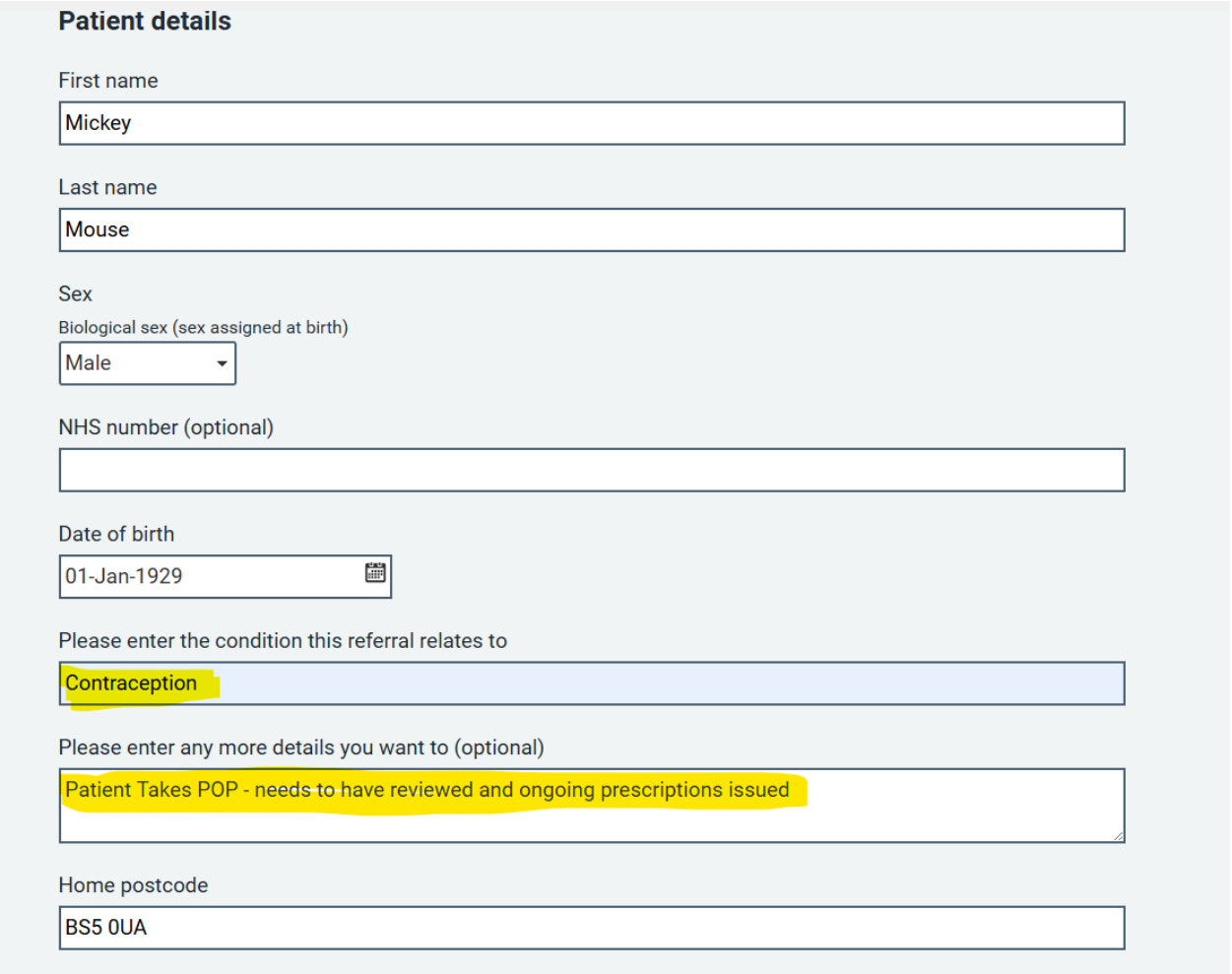


Progesterone only pill pharmacy first referral 1.0

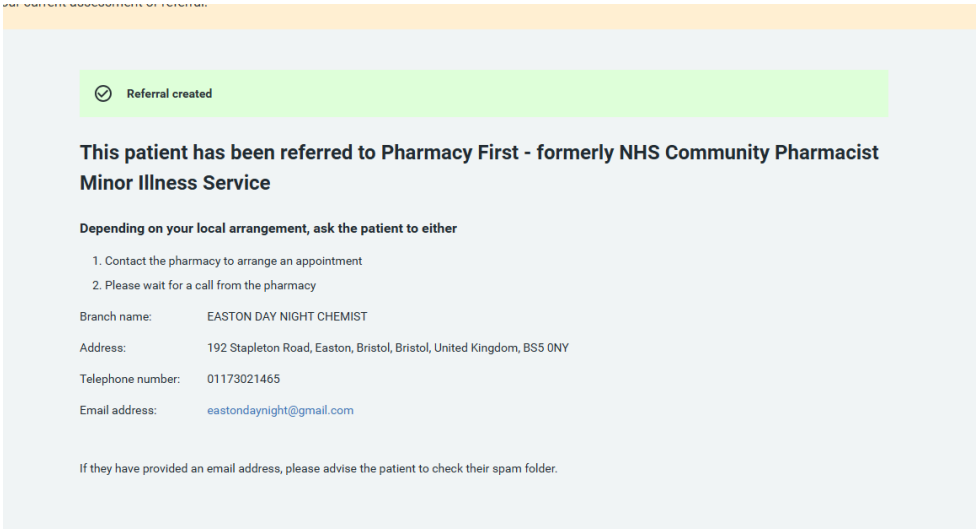
Choose chemist



Prepopulated form is created with patient details – complete highlighted



Scroll down and “Create referral “



Appendix

NHS England » NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service Guidance updated Oct 2025

Version Control

Date	Version	Author	Change Details
19/09/2025	1.0	JG	Document created.
16/09/2026	1.1	JG	Reviewed – No change