

Our reference      PGD extension  
Date                      April 2024



City of  
**Stoke-on-Trent**

All community pharmacists

**Public Health**  
Stoke-on-Trent City Council  
Glebe Street  
Civic Centre  
Stoke-on-Trent  
ST4 1HH

Dear Colleague

As you are aware the existing Patient Group Direction (PGD) on Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC); Levonorgestrel 1500micrograms (levonorgestrel 1.5mg) and Ulipristal Acetate 30mg is expiring at the end of March 2024. Work is ongoing to develop, approve and issue the updated PGD. We are keen that services to patients are not disrupted and hence we are extending the two PGDs for a period of three months. Please note that the current PGDs will now expire on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2024.

Emergency hormonal contraception plays a crucial role in preventing unwanted pregnancies and safeguarding the reproductive health of women in Stoke-on-Trent. Access to timely contraception is paramount, particularly in situations where traditional methods have failed or in cases of unintended pregnancies.

While efforts are underway to finalise and release the updated PGD, it is unlikely to be ready before the current PGDs expire. As such, it is imperative that we extend the current PGD to avoid any interruption in service provision.

We have sought the expert opinion of relevant healthcare professionals, including the Chief Operating Officer of the local pharmaceutical committee (LPC), a senior pharmacist in the local system and the Clinical lead in Sexual Health, Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust. All these professionals have agreed unanimously that the PGD can be extended for three months. This extension will provide community pharmacists with the necessary authority to continue dispensing emergency contraception within the existing framework, ensuring seamless access for individuals in need.

Continued/

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We do hope that you will find this extension helpful in continuing to provide the commissioned services without interruption. If you have any questions, please contact the Chief Operating Officer of the LPC in the first instance.

We wish you a very happy and peaceful Easter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Gunther', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Stephen Gunther**  
**Director of Public Health**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Cork', with a circular flourish around the first part of the name.

**Tania Cork**  
**Chief Operating Officer**  
Local Pharmaceutical Committee, Community Pharmacy Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.