

Collaborative Working Visits - Emergency Hormonal Contraception

Following agreement with Welsh Government around Collaborative Working arrangements, you may wish to meet with your local GP practice to discuss the EHC service that you provide at the pharmacy. Please see below for some points to help your discussions.

- Community Pharmacy is ideally placed to deliver this important service to patients within the time-frame necessary to be most effective. You may wish to advise the surgery on your opening times so that they can refer patients appropriately to the service.
- There are two types of “morning after pill” available through the service; Levonelle which can be taken within 3days of unprotected sexual intercourse (UPSI) and EllaOne which can be given between 3 and 5 days after UPSI.
- The service can be accessed by females over the age of 13 years. For anyone under the age of 16 years, additional questions will be asked to determine whether they meet the Fraser Guidelines.
- The service is provided by an accredited pharmacist who has undertaken additional training to accredit to provide the service.
- The patient will receive a consultation with the pharmacist in a private consultation room and will be asked a series of questions to assess the suitability of the medication for the patient. A consultation will typically take around 10 minutes. Questions will be asked regarding the patient’s menstrual cycle, date of UPSI, medication that the patient may be taking and questions about any illnesses they may have.
- The patient must present in the pharmacy themselves, and the emergency contraception taken on the premises. The service is free of charge.
- Patients will receive advice regarding STI testing and will be informed during the consultation that an interuterine device (IUD) remains the most effective form of emergency hormonal contraception. They may therefore be referred back to their GP or local GUM clinic to discuss this.
- There are a number of reasons that a patient may be referred back to their GP practice or sexual health clinic without treatment including UPSI occurring over 5days prior to EHC request.