



PHARMACY FACTS

Current information for pharmacists about
the MassHealth Pharmacy Program

www.mass.gov/masshealth-pharmacy-facts

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Pharmacist Prescribing and Dispensing of Hormonal Contraceptive Patches and Self-Administered Oral Hormonal Contraceptives

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy has issued Circular Letter DCP 23-10-121 regarding pharmacist prescribing and dispensing of hormonal contraceptive patches and self-administered oral hormonal contraceptives. The letter is available at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/contraceptive-prescribing-and-dispensing-pdf/download>.

The letter states,

A pharmacist may prescribe FDA-approved hormonal contraceptive patches and self-administered oral hormonal contraceptives (regardless of whether the product is over-the-counter or prescription-only) to patients of any age, provided that:

- a) Evidence that an approved training program has been completed is readily available . . . ;
- b) Prior to prescribing, the patient completes a pharmacy-provided self-screening risk assessment tool based on the current [United States Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use](#);
- c) Patient counseling and education are conducted on the proper use, risks, and side effects of the selected product;
- d) The FDA-approved hormonal contraceptive patch or self-administered oral hormonal contraceptive is prescribed only in accordance with the manufacturer's approved labeling;
- e) A valid prescription for up to, but not more than, a 12-month supply is generated;

- f) The patient is provided a written record of the product that has been prescribed and dispensed;
- g) The product is dispensed as soon as practicable after the pharmacist issues the prescription;
- h) All activities related to the prescribing and dispensing of hormonal contraceptive products are documented and readily available;
- i) The patient is referred to, or advised to consult with, a primary care practitioner or reproductive health care practitioner upon the prescribing and dispensing of the selected product;
- j) If the patient provides consent, the pharmacist should notify the patient's primary care practitioner or reproductive health care practitioner that the pharmacist has prescribed and dispensed a hormonal contraceptive product;
- k) A clinical visit with a primary care practitioner or reproductive health care practitioner does not preclude a pharmacist from issuing prescriptions with refills; and
- l) The pharmacist obtains a [National Provider Identifier \(NPI\)](#).

The circular letter further notes,

A scheduled appointment with the pharmacist shall not be required for the purpose of the prescribing or dispensing of a hormonal contraceptive patch or self-administered oral hormonal contraceptive.

Pharmacists Prescribing for MassHealth Members

As described in [Pharmacy Facts #214](#), effective 5/1/2024, pharmacy claims will not be payable if the prescriber is not enrolled in MassHealth. Pharmacists who wish to prescribe drugs to

MassHealth members should enroll with MassHealth, which may include enrolling as a non-billing provider. Pharmacists should visit the

MassHealth website for more information on enrolling, or contact MassHealth Customer Service at (800) 841-2900, TDD/TTY: 711.