

BC PharmaCare

Contraceptives

PharmaCare pays the full cost of prescription contraceptives for any B.C. resident with a Personal Health Number. Your Personal Health Number can be found on your driver's licence, BC Services Card or CareCard.

You do not have to register for coverage or fill out any forms.

Contraceptives covered by PharmaCare

- Most prescription contraceptive pills
- Intrauterine devices (IUDs)—hormonal and copper
- Hormonal implant
- Hormonal vaginal ring
- Contraceptive injection
- Emergency contraception (no prescription needed)

How it works

1. The prescription

Get a prescription from a pharmacist, doctor, nurse practitioner or midwife. Ask for a prescription that PharmaCare fully covers.

- If you have a prescription that is not covered by PharmaCare or is partially covered, ask a pharmacist if they can change it to an equivalent contraceptive that is free
- If you want to switch to a different type of contraception, for example from the pill to an IUD, talk to a pharmacist, doctor, nurse practitioner or midwife
- You do not need a prescription for emergency contraception. Ask the pharmacist how to get emergency contraceptives for free

2. Present the prescription at a pharmacy

Present the prescription at any community pharmacy with your Personal Health Number.

- If you are prescribed an IUD or implant, you will need to visit a doctor's office or clinic to have it inserted. Pharmacists can administer the hormonal contraceptive injection

3. Pay nothing

The pharmacist fills your prescription for free. You cannot be charged a fee for the dispense, assessment or any other action associated with filling the prescription.

For more information

Call us Monday to Friday 8am—8pm and Saturday 8am—4pm

- from the Lower Mainland: 604-683-7151
- from the rest of B.C., toll-free: 1-800-663-7100

Online resources

- Learn more about PharmaCare coverage of contraceptives: www.gov.bc.ca/contraceptives