

COVID-19 Care in the Community - Case Management in Pharmacy Operational Guide

March 2022

Medication Management Consult: Emergency Contraceptive Pill (ECP)

Eligibility Criteria:

Women who are in COVID-19 mandatory isolation due to being COVID-19 *positive* or a *household contact* can be supplied the ECP following a virtual or phone consultation with an accredited pharmacist.

Elements deemed covered under the medication management consult service fee:

- Consultation with a qualified pharmacist.
- NSS supply of the ECP and condoms, if required.
- Delivery of the ECP and condoms.

Referrals for this service may come from:

- Prescriber via email or phone or noted on prescription.
- Welfare or other agencies such as Tihei Mauri Ora and the local hubs who provide support.
- Health Hawke's Bay.
- General Practice.
- DHB services.
- Client self-referral.

Background

The ECP, levonorgestrel (Postinor® -1), prevents pregnancy by delaying the release of an egg from the ovary until sperm are no longer active. The ECP is most effective if taken as soon as possible after unprotected sex. Efficacy is best within 24 hours, but it can prevent pregnancy if taken up to 120 hours (5 days) after sex.

Accredited pharmacists can provide ECP via consultation in accordance with Pharmacy Council standards (see below). This service aims to deliver ECP to a woman who requires this in a timely and safe way.

What is the process?

Consultation for ECP for a women *required to isolate* due to being COVID-19 *positive* or a *household contact* occurs via telehealth, ensuring client privacy and upholding her mana. See tools available below for guidance on providing a telehealth consultation.

- Follow the usual processes around determination of appropriateness of ECP.
- Document as per Pharmacist-Only Medicine usual process.
- Dispense levonorgestrel and condoms, if required (minimum of 12), through pharmacy dispensing system as NSS (non-claimable via ICPSA).
- Deliver the ECP and condoms to the client free of charge.

For those women who are **not in COVID-19 isolation** and require ECP the following avenues are available:

- Patient self-funded as Pharmacist-Only Medicine
- HBDHB funded via Pharmacist ECP Consultation Service agreement for eligible women at no charge to the woman.
- Contacting a General Practice for a prescription of ECP.

Tools available:

- **Standards for the Supply by Pharmacists of the ECP**
- **Emergency Contraception - MOH**
- **Postinor® -1 CMI**
- **Patient fact sheet: COVID-19 Seeking medical help – when and how**
- **AHANZ telehealth practice in New Zealand (see pg. 3 and 4)**

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