

HARINGEY EMERGENCY HORMONAL CONTRACEPTION SCHEME

PRELIMINARY PROJECT REPORT FOR 2008/09

This report provides a brief summary of the activity of the emergency hormonal contraception scheme, funded by Haringey PCT and being implemented in Community Pharmacies across Haringey.

1. BACKGROUND

The 4YP EHC Scheme started in September 2002 and originally funded by a £75,000¹ grant from the Department of Health in support of local and governments strategies aimed at reducing teenage pregnancy rates in England and Wales, the U.K. having the highest teenage pregnancy rate in western Europe.

¹. The funding was provided for a joint scheme for both Enfield and Haringey

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

The aim of the Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) Scheme is to provide EHC free of charge to women, up to the age of 18 in Haringey. This service forms part of the Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy and is aimed at contributing to the reduction of conceptions (and terminations) in teenagers in the borough by:

- Providing EHC free of charge to women between the ages of 13 and 18 (inclusive).
- Increasing awareness and access to EHC of young women.
- Giving young women informal and confidential advice on contraception/sexual health, by trained community pharmacists, on their local high street.
- Increase partnership working and improve communication between pharmacists and other Healthcare professionals.
- Refer young women to GP/Family Planning Clinics (FPC) where appropriate.

3. THE PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES

During 2008/09 this scheme had 18 participating community pharmacists across the borough. 27 EHC trained pharmacists. Pharmacists who were interested in taking part in the scheme were recruited on the following criteria:

- Had successfully completed the training.
- Had an area within their Pharmacy suitable for confidential consultations.
- Were opened evenings and weekends.
- Had empathy with the scheme.

Particular attention was paid to make sure pharmacists were recruited in all areas of the boroughs and particularly in those areas with high rates of teenage pregnancy.

Initially pharmacists were trained in the supply of EHC under a Patient Group Direction (PGD) and following the guidance on best practices in the supply of EHC set out by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. The training was undertaken principally by the Pharmaceutical Advisers at the PCTs.

During the period covered by this report no new pharmacies were recruited onto the scheme² however, a number of new pharmacists were trained to maintain adequate cover in all of the 18 advertised pharmacies participating on the scheme.

From December 2008 thirteen of the pharmacies on the scheme also provided free Chlamydia test kits to clients as part of a national strategy.

²The scheme currently has participating pharmacies throughout the borough and the scheme has concentrated on further developing these pharmacies rather than expanding the number of pharmacies providing the service.

4. THE CONSULTATION

Client between the ages of 13 to 18 requesting EHC under the scheme were assessed by the participating pharmacist. Those clients who meet all the criteria set by the Patient Group Direction were supplied with Levonelle-1500. Those clients under the age of 16 who were assessed as being 'Gillick competent' following the ruling of the House of Lords in *Gillick v West Norfolk & Wisbech Area Health Authority* [1985]. As part of the consultation the clients were asked to provide information outlined in the proforma/assessment sheet. All consultations were treated as confidential³ as is data regarding any individual client. In addition to information regarding EHC clients were also advised on long-term contraception and sexually transmitted diseases (if appropriate). Where the pharmacist, on the basis of information supplied was uncertain that EHC should be supplied, the client was referred to a GP or FPC. All clients were supplied with a patient pack containing further literature on contraception and sexually transmitted diseases as well as condoms.

³Rights to confidentiality may be overrule where a pharmacist believes that a young person is being exploited or abused, or in some danger of so being.

5. PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

Publicity for the scheme was handled by the teenage pregnancy team at Haringey Council and by the sexual health team at Haringey PCT.

6. PROFORMA ANALYSIS OF CLIENTS REQUESTING EHC FROM HARINGEY PHARMACIES

During the year a total of **1080** clients requested EHC from participating pharmacies in Haringey, of these, 1069 (99%) satisfied all the requirements of the PGD and were supplied with Levonelle-1500. Clients not satisfying all the requirements were referred to either their G.P or to a Family Planning/Sexual health Clinic.

Pharmacy	consultations	%
D.P. MARK CHEMIST	42	3.89
SCORPIOUS PHARMACY	0	0
AMY PHARMACY	134	12.41
SAIGRACE PHARMACY	99	9.17
REDWOOD PHARMACY	54	5.0
COOPERS PHARMACY	72	6.67
ALLCURES PHARMACY	11	1.02
CADGE PHARMACY	67	6.2
NAPCLAN N17 6SB	146	13.54
NAPCLAN N17 6QB	142	13.15
NAPCLAN N17 8EY	56	5.2
CROSS CHEMIST	93	8.61
MINTONS CHEMIST	64	5.93
ALPHA PHARMACY	8	0.74
BOOTS N22 6BA	29	2.69
ABBOT PHARMACY	9	0.83
MEDISENSE PHARMACY	31	2.87
WARWICK PHARMACY	23	2.13
TOTAL	1080	100

The number of consultations per month

Analysis of the number of requests for EHC made each month shows no clear seasonal variation.

<u>Month</u>	<u>no.</u>	<u>%</u>
April	85	7.87
May	109	10.09
June	104	9.63
July	79	7.31
August	86	7.96
September	106	9.81
October	84	7.78
November	80	7.41
December	84	7.78
January	84	7.78
February	85	7.87
March	94	8.7
Total	1080	100

Day of consultation

Clients requested EHC through this scheme with regular frequency on all days of the week, with the exception of Mondays and Sundays. Less than 1% of clients requested consultations on a Sunday reflecting the lack of accessibility on this day (only one of the participating pharmacies is regularly opened on this day). This probably explains the apparent rebound on Mondays, which is the busiest day of the week. Interestingly nearly 50% of the requests for EHC on a Monday were from clients that had unprotected sex more than 48 hours before.

<u>Day</u>	<u>no.</u>	<u>%</u>
Monday	284	26.3
Tuesday	197	18.24
Wednesday	145	13.43
Thursday	145	13.43
Friday	171	15.83
Saturday	130	12.04
Sunday	8	0.74
Total	1080	100

Age of clients

The scheme was originally designed to cater for clients up to the age of 21. However, due to budget limitations it was decided by the Contraceptive Services Sub-Committee to reduce the age limit to under 19. This change in policy was slowly implemented from January 2003. This scheme continues to allow pharmacists to exercise their discretion in exceptional circumstances when providing EHC to clients who fall outside the prescribed upper age limit.

<u>Age</u>	<u>no.</u>	<u>%</u>
13	2	0.19
14	28	2.59
15	115	10.65
16	312	28.89
17	373	34.54
18	223	20.65
19	22	2.04
?	5	0.46
Total	1080	100

Further analysis of the data provided by the clients assessment form is on-going. This will include a breakdown of ethnicity, post code distribution of clients accessing the service and delay between unprotected sex and accessing the service

7. FINANCES FOR SCHEME 2008/09

Expenditure for the year totalled **£30,344** of which £18,756 was paid for pharmacy consultations, £5,658 for the cost of Levonelle 1500. The remaining sum of £5,930 covered the costs of managing and administrating the scheme and providing the PGD training for the pharmacists. All funding was provided by Haringey PCT.

Pierre Izzo (Scheme Co-ordinator)

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