



California State Board of Pharmacy

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NEWS RELEASE

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WOMEN CAN NOW OBTAIN SELF-ADMINISTERED HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES FROM PHARMACISTS WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION

SACRAMENTO -- The California State Board of Pharmacy announces that California's protocol is now in effect, permitting pharmacists to furnish self-administered hormonal contraception to women without a prescription. While the protocol does not make hormonal contraception "over-the-counter," it does provide women with the ability to obtain self-administered birth control products upon completion of a self-screening questionnaire and consultation with a pharmacist. The protocol, enacted as a regulation, became effective April 8, 2016.

According to Board President Amy Gutierrez, "The ability to obtain hormonal contraception directly from a local pharmacist will lead to increased access to contraception therapy for women throughout California. Combining this access with the pharmacist's role in patient education and counseling increases the benefit to each woman who elects to take advantage of this new access."

Women who seek to obtain these products from a pharmacy will be asked to complete a self-screening questionnaire and review their information with the pharmacist. In order to provide this service, a pharmacist must have completed training as set forth in the protocol.

It is recommended that consumers check with their local pharmacists to confirm initiation of this new service.

The authority to adopt the new regulation and protocol were made possible through legislation authored by Senator Ed Hernandez, O.D. (Azusa).

Click here to view the regulation:

http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/publications/hormonal_contraception_protocol_rphs.pdf

Click here to view the self-screening questionnaire for patient completion:

http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/publications/patient_screening_tool_consumers_english.pdf

For more information on the Board of Pharmacy, go to <http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov>.

The CA State Board of Pharmacy protects and promotes the health and safety of California consumers by pursuing the highest quality of pharmacist care and the appropriate use of pharmaceuticals through education, communication, licensing, legislation, regulation and enforcement.

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