

Pharmacists' Authority to Prescribe Contraception to Minors

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Issue

Under [PA 23-52](#), may pharmacists prescribe contraception to minors? Is parental consent required?

Summary

PA 23-52, § 3, authorizes pharmacists in Connecticut to prescribe emergency or hormonal contraception to patients under certain conditions (see Background). It does not specify any minimum patient age or a parental consent requirement.

The Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) is authorized to adopt regulations to implement this provision.

Background: Summary of [PA 23-52, § 3](#)

Section 3 of PA 23-52 authorizes pharmacists to prescribe, in good faith, emergency or hormonal contraception to a patient if the pharmacist completes the actions listed below before doing so.

Educational Training Program

Under the act, the pharmacist must complete an educational training program, accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, that does the following:

1. covers prescribing emergency and hormonal contraceptives by pharmacists and

2. addresses appropriate patient medical screenings, contraindications, drug interactions, treatment strategies, and modifications, and when to refer patients to medical providers.

Document Review

The act requires the pharmacist to review the most current version of the federal [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\) U.S. Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use](#), or any successor document, before prescribing emergency or hormonal contraception. If the pharmacist deviates from this document's guidance, the act requires that the pharmacist document his or her rationale for doing so.

Screening Document

Under PA 23-52, the pharmacist must complete a screening document before dispensing emergency or hormonal contraception, and at least once per calendar year after that for a returning patient. DCP must make the screening document available on its website.

The pharmacist, or the pharmacy he or she works for, must keep the document for at least three years. The pharmacy must also make the document available to DCP for inspection, upon request. The act explicitly states that it does not prevent the pharmacist, in his or her professional discretion, from (1) requiring more frequent screenings or (2) issuing a prescription for hormonal contraception for up to 12 months.

Counseling and Notification Requirements

If a pharmacist determines that prescribing a patient emergency or hormonal contraception is clinically appropriate, the pharmacist must do the following:

1. counsel the patient on what they should monitor and when to seek more medical attention;
2. notify any health care provider the patient identifies as their primary care provider or, if the patient does not disclose this, give the patient any relevant documentation; and
3. give the patient a document outlining age-appropriate health screenings that are consistent with CDC recommendations.

Pharmacy Technicians

The act authorizes pharmacy technicians, at a pharmacist's request, to help the pharmacist prescribe emergency or hormonal contraception to a patient by (1) giving the patient screening documentation; (2) taking and recording the patient's blood pressure; and (3) documenting the patient's medical history, so long as the pharmacy technician completed an educational training program that meets the same requirements as those for pharmacists described above.

Regulations

The act allows DCP to adopt implementing regulations.

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