If you already take contraceptive pills, your Pharmacist may be able to provide you with a 3 month supply without a prescription. This could prevent you running out of your pills when you are busy.

Pharmacist can supply only the pill you are already taking on prescription. You cannot try a new or different pill. Pharmacists can provide only one supply of 3 months of pills every 9 months.

The service does not replace your doctor's surgery. Contraception care is usually provided by doctor and nurses in surgeries or family planning clinics. Regular routine contraception checks are required every year. This ensures cervical smears are up-to-date, blood pressure is checked, and the most suitable contraception is provided. If your Pharmacist supplies you with an occasional contraceptive pill supply, you still need to have your regular contraception check-ups with a doctor or nurse.

If your Pharmacist cannot supply you with a short supply of pills without a prescription, you should obtain a supply through your surgery in the normal way. Pharmacist cannot give general contraception advice or supply other contraception, such as injections or coils.

If your Pharmacist cannot supply your pill, it does NOT mean you do not need it, only that you need to get on prescription from a doctor or nurse.

Obtaining oral contraceptive pills from your Pharmacist without a prescription is a private service, not paid for by the NHS. Your pharmacy will charge a fee. The fee will vary depending on the brand of pill you take.

### Which pill

Your Pharmacist can supply contraceptive pills of all types, including mini-pills (progesterone only pills).

This includes: Gedarel® 20/150, Mercilon®, Femodette®, Millinette® 20/75, Sunya 20/75®, Loestrin 20®, Gedarel® 30/150, Marvelon®, Yasmin®, Femodene®, Katya 30/75®, Millinette® 30/75, Levest®, Microgynon 30®, Ovranette®, Rigevidon®, Loestrin 30®, Cilest®, Brevinor®, Ovysmen®, Norimin®, Norinyl-1®, Femodene® ED, Microgynon 30 ED®, Triadene®, Logynon®, TriRegol®, BiNovum®, Synphase®, TriNovum®, Logynon ED®, Qlaira®, and Progestosterone only pills, Cerazette®, Femulen®, Micronor®, Norgeston®, Noriday®.

### Contraceptive pills from Pharmacists

Short supplies of contraceptive pills from Pharmacists without a prescription are not suitable for every woman. You will be asked to complete a short questionnaire before contraceptive pills can be supplied.

A copy of your completed questionnaire will be sent to your surgery to keep your doctor and nurses informed.

To be eligible you must:
- Have been taking the same pill previously for at least 12 months
- Have had a face-to-face pill check with a doctor or nurse in the preceding 12 months
- Have had oral contraceptive pills on prescription in the preceding 9 months
- Be up-to-date with your smears (smear within the last 3 years in most cases)

If you are having problems with your pill, or have certain medical conditions, or are taking certain medication you will not be eligible.

Women who have irregular or unexpected period bleeding should see and doctor or nurse as a matter of urgency. New or unexpected pill side-effect should also be brought to the attention of a doctor or nurse.

### About contraception

Your Pharmacist CANNOT oversee all your contraception needs. Only your doctor or nurse can deal with all your contraception needs.

Contraceptive pill are the most popular type of contraception in the UK. However, contraceptive pills do not suit all women and do not provide protection against sexual transmitted diseases. Alternative methods of contraception include coils (intra uterine contraceptive devices), condoms and caps, injectable contraceptives, and periodic abstaining from intercourse.

### Further information

See the contraception section of the NHS Choices website and the Family Planning Association website.

- [www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Contraception](http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Contraception)
- [www.fpa.org.uk/helpandadvice/contraception](http://www.fpa.org.uk/helpandadvice/contraception)

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