

Pharmacist-Prescribed Birth Control The Evidence on Outcomes

ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO PRESCRIBE HORMONAL BIRTH CONTROL MEANS:



Birth control is more easily obtained—especially for younger and uninsured women



States spend fewer tax dollars on the health care costs related to unintended pregnancy



Thousands of pharmacists are now successfully supporting individuals' family planning goals



Women have long reported that hormonal birth control can be difficult and costly to obtain. Many have trouble scheduling regular doctor appointments in the first place; for the uninsured, this can be an even greater obstacle. In recent years, states have turned to pharmacist-prescribed birth control as a way to reduce both barriers to birth control and unintended pregnancies. Allowing pharmacists to prescribe takes advantage of pharmacist training and education, and improves access to medication by cutting red tape.

THE NUMBERS:

45%

of pregnancies in the United States are unintended.

\$21b

in taxpayer dollars is spent annually on unplanned births across the country.

65%

of reproductive-age women use some form of contraception.

Initially, the goal of pharmacists prescribing birth control was to improve access to hormonal birth control so that women could better achieve their individual family planning goals. By increasing the number of highly qualified health care providers that women can see for these consultations, it should be the case that more of them take advantage of this model to obtain a method of contraception that is more effective and desirable than other methods. Lowering the barriers to hormonal methods should mean that more women are able to access them than could previously. Research shows that pharmacist-prescribed birth control is reaching these audiences.



Women who see pharmacists for birth control are:

Younger, less educated and less likely to be insured.

This means women find the pharmacy access model more affordable.



States save money:

In Oregon, public health care spending on unintended pregnancies decreased by \$2 million in two years of pharmacy access.

When women can access methods that better help them achieve their family planning goals, fewer of them experience unintended pregnancies.



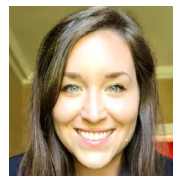
Pharmacists prescribing helps women continue using their preferred method:

Pharmacists are more likely to prescribe more than six months of a birth control method at one time than doctors.

Method continuation, which means that women do not experience a gap in birth control use due to having to schedule repeated doctor visits, has proven crucial to avoiding unintended pregnancy.

CONTACT US

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