

North East London formulary for oral contraceptive pills

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Revision History

Version	Date	Change
1.0	19/12/2023	Original
1.1 (minor revision)	28/01/2025	To include information on Desogestrel and peanut/soy allergy

Background

This document provides a summary of all the oral contraceptive pills **currently** on formulary in North East London (NEL) and is not intended to provide clinical guidance on oral contraceptive prescribing. This has been put together to support cost effective primary care prescribing/supplying of oral contraceptives in both GP practice and community pharmacy settings via the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service using patient group directions (PGDs). The NHSE PGDs for progestogen-only contraceptive pill (POP) and for combined oral hormonal contraceptive (COC) advise community pharmacists to adhere to the local Integrated Care Board (ICB) formulary when supplying oral contraceptive pills. Oral contraceptive pills should be prescribed/supplied based on specific patient factors (e.g. interactions, cautions and contraindications, co-morbidities, previous side effects), patient preferences and cost.

The oral contraceptive products currently on NEL formulary have been listed in order of prescribing/supplying preference based on cost and formulary status. The oral contraceptives formulary will be updated regularly to ensure advice is up to date based on cost effectiveness and product availability.

Costing symbol (28 days)	Cost per 28 days (price based on MIMS 08/2023)
£	< £2.50
££	£2.50 to £4.00
£££	> £4.00

Preference	Prescribing/supplying advice (based on cost and formulary status)
1st Line	Preferred first line if clinically appropriate
2nd Line	Preferred if clinically appropriate and first line options not suitable and/or not available
3rd Line	Prescribe/supply only if there is a supply shortage of 1 st and 2 nd line options and/or if 1 st and 2 nd line options not available/suitable
Non-formulary	Do not prescribe/supply as not on NEL formulary

Progestogen-only oral contraceptive pills

Product*	Costing (28 days)	Preference (see key)	Additional information
Desogestrel 75microgram tablets			
Desogestrel 75microgram tablets (generic)	£	1 st Line	Prescribe generically where possible however note that some generic versions of Desogestrel contain soyabean oil and it is recommended that these products should not be taken by patients who have soya or peanut allergy. For these patients prescribe by brand name - Consider prescribing Cerelle, Cerazette, Desmono, Desorex or Zelleta for patients with soya or peanut allergy (Check individual SPC for updates in formulation before prescribing)
Levonorgestrel 30microgram tablets			
Norgeston 30microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Norethisterone 350microgram tablets			
Noriday 350microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	

*Product added to table as 'formulary' if on the formulary for at least 1 of the 7 NEL Places.

Combined oral contraceptive pills (monophasic – 21 day)

Product*	Costing (28 days)	Preference (see key)	Additional information
Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Desogestrel 150microgram tablets			
Bimizza 150microgram/20microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Gedarel 20microgram/150microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Mercilon 150microgram/20microgram tablets	££	2 nd Line	
Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Gestodene 75microgram tablets			
Millinette 20microgram/75microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Sunya 20/75 tablets	£	1 st Line	
Akizza 75microgram/20microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Femodette tablets	££	2 nd Line	
Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Desogestrel 150microgram tablets			
Cimizt 30microgram/150microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Gedarel 30microgram/150microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Marvelon tablets	£	1 st Line	
Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Drospirenone 3mg tablets			
Yacella 0.03mg/3mg tablets	££	2 nd Line	
Dretine 0.03mg/3mg tablets	££	2 nd Line	
Lucette 0.03mg/3mg tablets	££	2 nd Line	
Yasmin tablets	£££	3 rd Line	
Ellanite 0.03mg/3mg tablets	£££	Non-formulary	
Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Gestodene 75microgram tablets			
Millinette 30microgram/75microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Katya 30/75 tablets	£	1 st Line	
Femodene tablets	£	1 st Line	
Akizza 75microgram/30microgram tablets	££	2 nd Line	
Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Levonorgestrel 150microgram tablets**			
Levest 150/30 tablets	£	1 st Line	
Maexeni 150microgram/30microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Rigevidon tablets	£	1 st Line	
Ovranette 150microgram/30microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Microgynon 30 tablets	£	1 st Line	
Elevin 150microgram/30microgram tablets	£££	3 rd Line	
Ambelina 150microgram/30microgram tablets	£	Non-formulary	
Ethinylestradiol 35microgram / Norethisterone 1mg tablets			
Norimin 1mg/35microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Ethinylestradiol 35microgram / Norethisterone 500microgram tablets			
Brevinor 500microgram/35microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Ethinylestradiol 35microgram / Norgestimate 250microgram tablets			
Cilique 250microgram/35microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Lizinna 250microgram/35microgram tablets	£	1 st Line	
Mestranol 50microgram / Norethisterone 1mg tablets			
Norinyl-1 tablets	£	1 st Line	

*Product added to table as 'formulary' if on the formulary for at least 1 of the 7 NEL Places.

**Combined oral contraceptive pills containing ≤ 30micrograms ethinylestradiol in combination with levonorgestrel or norethisterone is a reasonable first-line choice of COC to minimise cardiovascular risk.

Combined oral contraceptive pills (monophasic – everyday)

Product*	Costing (28 days)	Preference (see key)	Additional information
Drospirenone 3mg / Estetrol 14.2mg tablets			
Drovelis 3mg/14.2mg tablets	£££	Non-formulary	
Estradiol 1.5mg / Nomegestrol 2.5mg tablets			
Zoely 2.5mg/1.5mg tablets	£££	3 rd Line	
Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Levonorgestrel 150microgram tablets**			
Microgynon 30 ED tablets	£	1 st Line	
Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Gestodene 75microgram tablets			
Femodene ED tablets	£	1 st Line	
Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Drospirenone 3mg tablets			
Eloine 0.02mg/3mg tablets	£££	3 rd Line	

*Product added to table as 'formulary' if on the formulary for at least 1 of the 7 NEL Places.

**Combined oral contraceptive pills containing ≤ 30micrograms ethinylestradiol in combination with levonorgestrel or norethisterone is a reasonable first-line choice of COC to minimise cardiovascular risk.

Combined oral contraceptive pills (phasic – 21 day)

Product*	Costing (28 days)	Preference (see key)	Additional information
Ethinylestradiol / Levonorgestrel			
Logynon tablets	£	Non-formulary	
TriRegol tablets	£	Non-formulary	
Ethinylestradiol / Norethisterone			
Synphase tablets	£	Non-formulary	

*Product added to table as 'formulary' if on the formulary for at least 1 of the 7 NEL Places.

Combined oral contraceptive pills (phasic – everyday)

Product*	Costing (28 days)	Preference (see key)	Additional information
Ethinylestradiol / Levonorgestrel			
Logynon ED tablets	£	Non-formulary	
Dienogest / Oestradiol Valerate			
Qlaira tablets	£££	3 rd Line	

*Product added to table as 'formulary' if on the formulary for at least 1 of the 7 NEL Places.

References

- MIMS available at <https://www.mims.co.uk/>
- NHSE England. Patient Group Direction. Supply of a combined oral hormonal contraceptive (COC) by Community Pharmacists in England working in a pharmacy registered to provide the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service Version 2.0 (Dec 2023)
- NHSE England. Patient Group Direction. Supply of a progestogen only contraceptive pill (POP) by Community Pharmacists in England working in a pharmacy registered to provide the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service Version 2.0 (Dec 2023)