BOARD OF PHARMACY

Proposed Regulation

Adopt §1746.1 of Article 5 of Division 17 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§1746.1 Protocol for Pharmacists Furnishing Self-Administered Hormonal Contraception.

(a) A pharmacist furnishing self-administered hormonal contraception pursuant to Section 4052.3 of the Business and Professions Code shall follow the protocol specified in subdivision (b) of this section.

(b) Protocol for Pharmacists Furnishing Self-Administered Hormonal Contraception

(1) Authority: Section 4052.3(a)(1) of the California Business and Professions Code authorizes a pharmacist to furnish self-administered hormonal contraceptives in accordance with a protocol approved by the California State Board of Pharmacy and the Medical Board of California. Use of the protocol in this section satisfies that requirement.

(2) Purpose: To provide timely access to self-administered hormonal contraception medication and to ensure that the patient receives adequate information to successfully comply with therapy.

(3) Definition of Self-Administered Hormonal Contraception: Hormonal contraception products with the following routes of administration are considered self-administered:

(A) Oral;
(B) Transdermal;
(C) Vaginal;
(D) Depot Injection.

(4) Procedure: When a patient requests self-administered hormonal contraception, the pharmacist shall complete the following steps:

(A) Ask the patient to use and complete the self-screening tool;
(B) Review the self-screening answers and clarify responses if needed;
(C) Measure and record the patient's seated blood pressure if combined hormonal contraceptives are requested or recommended.
(D) Before furnishing self-administered hormonal contraception, the pharmacist shall ensure that the patient is appropriately trained in administration of the requested or recommended contraceptive medication.
(E) When a self-administered hormonal contraceptive is furnished, the patient shall be provided with appropriate counseling and information on the product furnished, including:

(i) Dosage;
(ii) Effectiveness;
(iii) Potential side effects;
(iv) Safety;
(v) The importance of receiving recommended preventative health screenings;
(vi) That self-administered hormonal contraception does not protect against sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

(5) Self-Screening Tool: The pharmacist shall provide the patient with a self-screening tool containing the list of questions specified in this protocol. The patient shall complete the self-screening tool, and the pharmacist shall use the answers to screen for all Category 3 and 4 conditions and characteristics for self-administered hormonal contraception from the current United States Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (USMEC) developed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The patient shall complete the self-screening tool annually, or whenever the patient indicates a major health change.

A copy of the most recently completed self-screening tool shall be securely stored within the originating pharmacy or health care facility for a period of at least three years from the date of dispense.

This self-screening tool should be made available in alternate languages for patients whose primary language is not English.

(6) Fact Sheet: The pharmacist shall provide the patient with the FDA-required patient product information leaflet included in all self-administered hormonal contraception products, as required by the Business and Professions Code Section 4052.3(c). The pharmacist shall answer any questions the patient may have regarding self-administered hormonal contraception.

Pharmacists should provide the patient with a copy of a current consumer-friendly comprehensive birth control guide such as that created by the FDA, and a copy of an administration-specific factsheet; examples of appropriate guides and factsheets are available on the Board of Pharmacy's website.

(7) Follow-Up Care: Upon furnishing a self-administered hormonal contraceptive, or if is determined that use of a self-administered hormonal contraceptive is not recommended, the pharmacist shall refer the patient for appropriate follow-up care to the patient's primary care provider or, if the patient does not have a primary care provider, to nearby clinics. A patient who is determined not to be an appropriate candidate for self-administered hormonal contraception shall be advised of the potential risk and referred to an appropriate health care provider for further evaluation.

(8) Notifications: The pharmacist shall notify the patient's primary care provider of any drug(s) or device(s) furnished to the patient, or enter the appropriate information in a patient record system shared with the primary care provider, as permitted by that primary care provider. If the patient does not have a primary care provider, or is unable to provide contact information for his or her primary care provider, the pharmacist shall provide the patient with a written record of the drug(s) or device(s) furnished and advise the patient to consult an appropriate health care professional of the patient's choice.

(9) Referrals and Supplies: If self-administered hormonal contraception services are not immediately available or the pharmacist declines to furnish pursuant to a conscience clause, the pharmacist shall refer the patient to another appropriate health care provider.

The pharmacist also shall comply with all state mandatory reporting laws, including sexual abuse laws.

(10) Product Selection: The pharmacist, in consultation with the patient, may select any hormonal contraceptive listed in the current version of the USMEC for individuals identified as Category 1 or 2, based on the information reported in the self-screening tool and the blood pressure (if recorded by the pharmacist). The USMEC shall be kept current and maintained in the pharmacy or health care facility, and shall be available on the Board of Pharmacy's website.

Generic equivalent products may be furnished.

(11) Documentation: Each self-administered hormonal contraceptive furnished by a pharmacist pursuant to this protocol shall be documented in a patient medication record and securely stored within the originating pharmacy or health care facility for a period of at least three years from the date of dispense. A patient medication record shall be maintained in an automated data processing or manual record mode such that the required information under title 16, sections 1717 and 1707.1 of the California Code of Regulations is readily retrievable during the pharmacy or facility's normal operating hours.

(12) Training: Prior to furnishing self-administered hormonal contraception, pharmacists who participate in this protocol must have completed a minimum of one hour of a board-approved continuing education program specific to self-administered hormonal contraception, application of the USMEC, and other CDC guidance on contraception. An equivalent curriculum-based training program completed on or after the year 2014 in an accredited California school of pharmacy is also sufficient training to participate in this protocol.

(13) Patient Privacy: All pharmacists furnishing self-administered hormonal contraception in a pharmacy or health care facility shall operate under the

pharmacy or facility's policies and procedures to ensure that patient confidentiality and privacy are maintained.

(14) Self-Screening Tool Questions

HORMONAL CONTRACEPTION SELF-SCREENING TOOL QUESTIONS

1	What was the first date of your last menstrual period?	/ /	
2	Have you ever taken birth control pills, or used a birth control patch, ring, or shot/injection? (If no, go to question 3)	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Did you ever experience a bad reaction to using hormonal birth control?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	Are you currently using birth control pills, or a birth control patch, ring, or shot/injection?	Yes ☐	No ☐
3	Have you ever been told by a medical professional not to take hormones?	Yes ☐	No ☐
4	Do you smoke cigarettes?	Yes ☐	No ☐
5	Do you think you might be pregnant now?	Yes ☐	No ☐
6	Have you given birth within the past 6 weeks?	Yes ☐	No ☐
7	Are you currently breastfeeding an infant who is less than 1 month of age?	Yes ☐	No ☐
8	Do you have diabetes?	Yes ☐	No ☐
9	Do you get migraine headaches, or headaches so bad that you feel sick to your stomach, you lose the ability to see, it makes it hard to be in light, or it involves numbness?	Yes ☐	No ☐
10	Do you have high blood pressure, hypertension, or high cholesterol?	Yes ☐	No ☐
11	Have you ever had a heart attack or stroke, or been told you had any heart disease?	Yes ☐	No ☐
12	Have you ever had a blood clot in your leg or in your lung?	Yes ☐	No ☐
13	Have you ever been told by a medical professional that you are at a high risk of developing a blood clot in your leg or in your lung?	Yes ☐	No ☐
14	Have you had bariatric surgery or stomach reduction surgery?	Yes ☐	No ☐
15	Have you had recent major surgery or are you planning to have surgery in the next 4 weeks?	Yes ☐	No ☐
16	Do you have or have you ever had breast cancer?	Yes ☐	No ☐
17	Do you have or have you ever had hepatitis, liver disease, liver cancer, or gall bladder disease, or do you have jaundice (yellow skin or eyes)?	Yes ☐	No ☐
18	Do you have lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, or any blood disorders?	Yes ☐	No ☐
19	Do you take medication for seizures, tuberculosis (TB), fungal infections, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	If yes, list them here:		
20	Do you have any other medical problems or take regular medication?	Yes ☐	No ☐
	If yes, list them here:		

Authority: Sections 4005, 4052(a)(10), and 4052.3, Business and Professions Code.
Reference: Sections 4052(a)(10) and §4052.3, Business & Professions Code.