

Template letter for distribution from PCT leads/Commissioners, to Implanon Fitters



Dear

Important Information regarding the change from Implanon to Nexplanon.

MSD have now announced the forthcoming introduction of Nexplanon, and the subsequent withdrawal of Implanon. This change will occur in October 2010 and you need to take action before the change-over in order to become familiar with and trained on the use of the new product.

What is staying the same?

Like Implanon, the active hormone contained in Nexplanon is 68mg etonogestrel. It is inserted sub-dermally and is bioequivalent to Implanon. It should remain in place for no more than 3 years and is indicated for contraception.

What is changing?

Nexplanon is different from Implanon in two important ways. Firstly, the implant is radio-opaque and can therefore now be located using X-ray or CT scan, if necessary. The major change is a newly designed preloaded applicator, which has been designed to reduce the risk of deep insertion or non insertion.

What do you need to do if you are currently a trained user of Implanon?

In order to reduce the risk of insertion error, it is essential that healthcare providers, currently using Implanon and are intending to insert Nexplanon, become familiar with the new device and undertake training before attempting to use it.

In support of this recommendation, MSD has created a clinical education and learning programme for existing Implanon-trained fitters, focusing on the insertion, localisation and removal of the implant. The training programme can be completed online and will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. The training consists of a visual presentation, including animation of the insertion technique. Model-arm training is also available for those who have completed the online training and wish to attend a face-to-face training programme, by a qualified trainer. Further details about the training programme can be found by accessing the following website: www.nexplanon.co.uk/training

Alternatively you can telephone 0844 556 1444 for training information.

What do you need to do if you do not currently fit Implanon, but wish to start using Nexplanon?

If you are interested in training to fit Nexplanon, further information can be found on the website detailed above. It is also recommended that you have an appropriate training in contraception. This can be achieved through the e-learning package made available by the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare. More details can be found on: www.fsrh.org

How will the change-over be managed?

There will be a managed supply transition from Implanon to Nexplanon and this will take place during October 2010. From this point, Implanon will be discontinued.

If you have Implanon stock at this current time you can continue to dispense/fit/prescribe Implanon. There will be no need to return Implanon stock when Nexplanon is launched, as MSD have a robust stock management plan in place, working with supply teams, wholesalers and dispensers to manage demand of Implanon stock in preparation for the introduction of Nexplanon.

Please note that the price of Nexplanon will be identical to Implanon.

If you would like to receive more information about Nexplanon, please contact MSD on 01707 363418.

Yours sincerely