

15.8 RN CONTRACEPTIVE STARTS

Policy: Registered Nurses (RN) employed by a Title X family planning clinic contracted with the Department of Public Health and Human Services Family Planning Program may start a client on a hormonal contraceptive.

Procedure:

1. A comprehensive health history, reproductive life plan and sexual health assessment must be completed and reviewed for any contraindications or precautions to hormonal contraceptive use.
2. Review the current [U.S. Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/pdfs/rr6503.pdf) (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/pdfs/rr6503.pdf>).
3. The RN may start a family planning client on a hormonal method that meets category 1 conditions or certain category 2 conditions in the current [U.S. Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/pdfs/rr6503.pdf) (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/pdfs/rr6503.pdf>). **RNs may not dispense Category 3 or 4 contraceptive methods.**
4. Dispense client's choice of hormonal contraceptive per written and approved standing orders. See MT Title X Family Planning Clinical Protocol Manual, Policy 15.13 *Pharmacy Standing Orders* for guidance on standing orders.
5. "Quick start" is the preferable option to start a client on a hormonal contraceptive (see MT Title X Family Planning Clinical Protocol Manual, Policy 3.3 *Quick Start/Same Day Start Method*).
6. Provide and document the client education and counseling required by Title X Program Requirements and the QFP (see MT Title X Family Planning Administrative Manual, Policy 2.1 *Definition of Title X Family Planning Services*, and MT Title X Family Planning Clinical Protocol Manual, Policy 15.7 *Contraceptive Services*).
7. The components of the comprehensive health history, periodic physical assessment and laboratory testing that are required must be reviewed by the clinical providers at least annually. It remains the responsibility of the provider to determine what services the client will require for future visits (see MT Title X Family Planning Clinical Protocol Manual, Section 1.0 *Comprehensive Health History & Periodic Physical Assessment*). A woman should be seen face to face annually by a mid-level clinician or physician for well woman care.

Montana statute [MCA 37-2-104] states:

Dispensing of drugs by medical practitioners unlawful – exceptions.

1. *Except as otherwise provided by this section, it is unlawful for a medical practitioner to engage, directly or indirectly, in the dispensing of drugs.*
2. *This section does not prohibit: The dispensing of factory prepackaged contraceptives, other than mifepristone, by a registered nurse employed by a family planning clinic under contract with the department of public health and human services if the dispensing is in accordance with:*
 - a. *a physician's written protocol specifying the circumstances under which dispensing is appropriate; and*
 - b. *the drug labeling, storage, and recordkeeping requirements of the board of pharmacy.*