



February 24, 2017

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Dear Colleague,

As you may be aware, Senate Bill 16-135 was passed by the Colorado legislature in 2016 and signed by the governor last June. This law called for the promulgation of pharmacy rule on Collaborative Practice Agreements and Statewide Protocols to be created collaboratively by the Boards of Pharmacy, Medicine, and Nursing, and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. There are two such Statewide Protocols addressing public health opportunities that have gone through this process and will soon be rolled out: hormonal contraception and smoking cessation.

The effective date for the hormonal contraception protocol is March 14, 2017 and allows pharmacists to follow CDC guidelines to provide oral contraceptives directly to women that meet those guidelines. Pharmacists that practice under this protocol will have first completed training approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and use a standardized questionnaire to screen for safety and appropriateness of contraception based on the CDC United States Medical Eligibility Criteria (US MEC). Pharmacists must also communicate to a patient's primary care provider of any contraceptive medication provided to them under this protocol. The patient will also be provided a written visit summary. This protocol has been vetted by each of the boards and any suggested changes or edits incorporated. Please note we can only provide care to patients for up to three years without documentation that they are also seeing a primary care provider for routine well-woman care.

Oregon began using a similar protocol in January 2016. From their experience, we understand that approximately 10% of women will not be eligible for this protocol as they may be more appropriate candidates for long-acting reversible contraception, such as an IUD, or may have a blood pressure reading greater than 140/90 for which we would refer them to a primary care provider or OB/GYN. We would like to work with the physician/provider communities throughout Colorado to identify practices accepting new patients so we may refer patients to those practices.

An FAQ document is attached to this communication to assist you in disseminating this information to your colleagues.

Sincerely,

**Kim Swanson Ward**  
President, Colorado Pharmacists Society