

Subject: Policy and Procedure on Progestin (Depo-Provera) Injections		Department: Clinical
Date:	Prepared by:	Approved by:

Policy: It is the policy of ***FACILITY NAME*** to provide new progestin (Depo) injections for contraception after pregnancy has reasonably been ruled out with history and a negative urine pregnancy test. A patient can receive their initial Depo injection at any point in their menstrual cycle. If the patient has had unprotected sex in the previous 5 days, they will be offered emergency contraception (EC) and advised to use a backup method for the first 7 days. For those taking ulipristal acetate (UPA), they should be counseled that starting the progestin injection on the day they take EC may make the EC less effective. Patients should be given the option of self-administering the injection subcutaneously 5 days after taking UPA or having their injection administered in the clinic the day they take UPA. Patients who chose to get the injection on the same day as taking EC should be advised to use a backup method for 7 days and told to do a home pregnancy test in two weeks. The patient’s initial visit will be with a clinician.

The clinician will offer the patient appointments to return for the injection every three months (13 weeks) or a prescription for Depo-SubQ Provera to pick up at the pharmacy and to self-administer subcutaneously at home every three months (13 weeks). If the patient returns for the next Depo injection within 15 weeks of the last injection, they do not need a repeat urine pregnancy test and may receive Depo at a nursing visit. Prior to leaving the health center, however, the patient’s chart should be reviewed by a clinician to make sure they are not overdue for other medical care or have a positive test result that needs to be addressed.

If the patient returns more than 15 weeks from the last injection, they should be asked whether or not they had unprotected sex more than 15 weeks from their last injection. If they answer “yes,” a urine pregnancy test will be performed and EC will be offered. The patient must see a clinician at this visit. The patient will be advised to do a home pregnancy test in two weeks, as there is a small chance of pregnancy. The patient will be given Depo after the clinician has done this counseling and placed the orders.

If the patient did not have unprotected sex beyond the 15-week cut off between their last Depo injection and the office visit, they can receive Depo and be reminded to return in 13-15 weeks for the next routine injection.

Note: Depo injections can be given earlier than 13 weeks after the prior Depo injection if it is more convenient for the patient. There is no cut-off for “too early.”