



Primary Care Shared Connection

Date 2022

Depo Provera Injection

The ICB supports practices by analysing themes from Significant Events. On some occasions, themes or single events are identified that require prompt sharing to all Primary Care practices to enable learning.

Particular Interest

All Staff Practice Managers GP's Nursing AHP Clerical Other

Summary

Patient attended for depo contraception injection following successful previous pregnancy. Questions of possible pregnancy, recent unprotected intercourse not recorded during the consultation. No pregnancy test was undertaken as part of the appointment. Patient developed abdominal pain and was referred to Early Pregnancy Unit where pregnancy was confirmed. Patient found to be pregnant when depo was administered.

Impact

- Patient underwent termination **due to risk of ectopic pregnancy**
- Potential for delayed or misdiagnosis or management of patient
- Risk to practice nurse and practice indemnity and reputation
- Potential to cause significant additional psychological harm to patient
- Could have met the Serious Incident criteria if patient had suffered physical or psychological complications from termination.

Identified learning

- Staff member had done the correct training but additional supervision / support could have been put in place
- Importance of mentorship/buddy/ supervision/peer to peer support for staff
- Best practice to regularly audit documentation of consultations for completeness, particularly for new staff
- Ensuring a protocol for depo contraception is in place, including pregnancy testing in practice
- Use of the Ardens template for recording consultation standardises documentation (in place but was not used in this instance)

Suggested actions

- All relevant staff to familiarise with protocol or [FSRH](#) guidelines
- Pregnancy test to be completed prior to administration routinely regardless of patient reported history / risk factors.
- New clinical staff issued with supervisor/buddy/mentor
- Sample of consultations for peer-to-peer discussion
- Staff to use template and record consultation and screening questions

For further information and support contact:

Primary Care Quality:
 Southampton: sarahrochford@nhs.net
 South West Hampshire: helena.blake1@nhs.net
 North and Mid Hampshire: wendy.gray6@nhs.net
 South Eastern Hampshire: amy.lovell3@nhs.net
 Portsmouth: stephen.orobio@nhs.net
 Isle of Wight: leo.harverson1@nhs.net
 NHSE Performers Team South East: england.htvps@nhs.net
 NHS Fraud: hiowicb-hsi.fraud@nhs.net <https://nhsfraudandsecurity.co.uk/>