

Information for women who have had a contraceptive implant removed

What care do I need to take over the next few days?

You will have a pressure bandage fitted over the site from where the implant was removed. This is to help reduce the possibility of bruising and bleeding in the area. It is important that you keep this bandage firmly in place for two days (48 hours). While the bandage is in place, please keep the area clean and dry. If you need to shower, please cover the area so that it remains dry.

When you remove the bandage you may find a couple of sticky strips that hold the incision (cut) together. These will fall off automatically once the wound has healed. Please do not remove these when you take the bandage off.

If you feel that the bandage is too tight or that your fingers are feeling numb or cold you may loosen the bandage but make sure that it is still firmly wrapped around the site.

Very occasionally you may have a stitch at the site. The doctor or nurse will advise you about its removal. Usually you will not need any additional pain relief. If required please take whatever you would normally take for pain relief (Paracetamol or Ibuprofen tablets with food).

What symptoms should I worry about?

It is very rare to get any serious problems after an implant has been removed. However if you suffer with any of the following symptoms, please see your GP or attend a sexual health clinic for advice:

- The removal site becomes sore, starts to ooze or seep fluid or you feel it may have become infected. Your GP will be able to treat the infection with some antibiotics if necessary.
- Any other side effect that is unexpected or unusual.

Anything else?

If you do not wish to become pregnant, you must use an alternative form of contraception now that the implant has been taken out. It will stop working as soon as it is removed. The sexual health clinic can help you decide on an alternative method of contraception that suits your needs.