

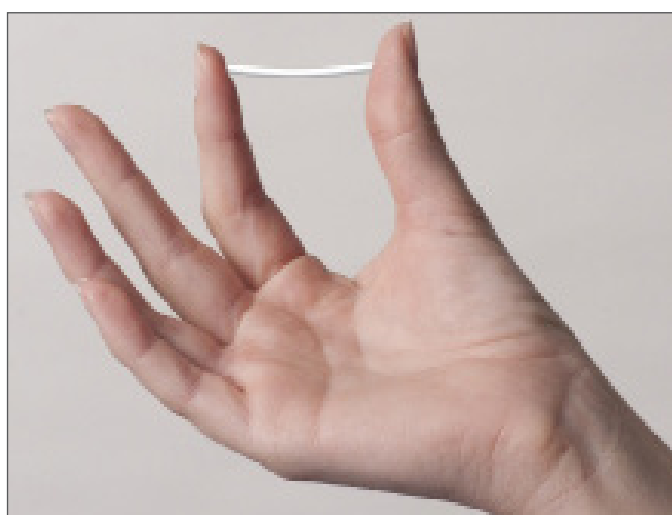
Fact Sheet - English

THE CONTRACEPTIVE IMPLANT



What Is The Contraceptive Implant?

The only contraceptive implant available in Australia is called Implanon NXT®. It is a small plastic rod that contains a hormone, called a progestogen, which is slowly released to prevent you from getting pregnant. The implant is inserted just under the skin on the inside of your upper arm. It is left in place for 3 years but can be removed earlier if you choose.



How Well Does It Work?

It is a very effective method of preventing a pregnancy (more than 99.9% effective). Some medications can make the implant less effective; so it is important to tell your doctor or nurse if you are taking other medications.

Who Can Use An Implant?

Most women can use an implant. It is good for women who find it hard to remember to take a pill every day. Women who want long-term birth control that works well, but can be reversed quickly can find it suits them. It can be inserted immediately after giving birth, including in women who are breastfeeding.

Who Should Not Use An Implant?

You should not use an implant if you have had breast cancer or have certain liver problems. The implant may not suit you if you are prone to thickened (keloid) scarring, if you don't want to have something under your skin, or if you are worried about having irregular periods.

Are There Any Side Effects?

Some women get irregular or prolonged bleeding. Their periods may stop completely. Other side effects are rare, but some women may get headaches, mood changes, or have sore breasts.

How Is An Implant Inserted?

The doctor puts a small mark on the skin on the inside of your upper arm. They clean the skin with antiseptic, and inject a little anaesthetic, which might sting slightly, so that the insertion will not hurt. Then the implant is inserted just under the skin, and a small bandage is put on the arm. The bandage should stay in place for 24 hours. There may be some bruising and soreness around the implant that can last for up to a week.

How Is An Implant Removed?

The doctor injects a little anaesthetic just under the end of the implant, and makes a small cut in the skin.

The end of the implant is either pushed through the tiny cut, or pulled out using a small instrument.

The contraceptive effect wears off quickly when the implant is removed. Most women have a normal period within a month. The implant must be removed after three years. A new implant can be inserted as soon as one has been removed.

Where Can I Get A Contraceptive Implant?

You need to see a doctor to get a script for an implant. Most doctors will talk about it on your first visit and ask you to return for another visit to have it inserted. You can have an implant inserted at a Family Planning clinic or by a local doctor or nurse who has been trained to insert it.

For Further Information

- Contact the Family Planning NSW Talkline on 1300 658 886 or go to www.fpnsw.org.au/talkline
- NRS (for deaf) 133 677
- Or visit your nearest Family Planning clinic

www.fpnsw.org.au | [talkline 1300 658 886](tel:1300658886) | [bookshop](#)

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Family Planning NSW is a not-for-profit organisation funded by the NSW Ministry of Health

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