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## **Toolkit:** Expanding Access to Injectable Contraceptives through Pharmacies



### Considerations when Advocating for DMPA-SC



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**Progestin-only injectable contraceptives** can come in various formulations and it is important to understand the differences when deciding which you are advocating for (see table on page 2). Depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) can be administered via intramuscular (IM) injection or subcutaneous injection (SC). Although DMPA-IM is a widely available option, DMPA-SC (better known by its brand name, Sayana Press) is increasingly gaining popularity. Sayana Press is a discrete, safe, and effective all-in-one prefilled device that has fewer side effects due to its lower dose. Its ease of use makes it well suited for administration by pharmacists and has the potential to decrease barriers to access.



**During step 2 of the Advocacy Plan, consider the following if advocating for DMPA-SC:**



### **Is DMPA-SC registered in your country?**

If DMPA-SC is already approved in country, pharmacy associations can assist in drafting policy language, advise on service delivery guidelines, support the development of pharmacist training curricula, and engage with distributors or others in the supply chain. If DMPA-SC is not yet approved, pharmacy associations can collaborate with other stakeholders (e.g. medical associations, district health officials, etc.) on advocacy efforts and/or work with donors to sponsor a pilot test to generate more evidence on safety and efficacy.



### **Who is approved to administer DMPA-SC in your country?**

In most countries, DMPA-SC is only approved for administration by service providers, including community health workers. Pharmacy associations can play an important role selling the product as well as in advocating for pharmacists to be able to administer the injection. DMPA-SC is unique in that self-injection is also possible. Pharmacy associations can be part of the dialogue around self-injection and can advocate for their ability to teach clients how to properly administer it.



### **Does your country have an introduction or scale-up plan?**

If your country has an introduction or scale-up plan, review the plan to determine the role of the private health sector and see where pharmacies are best positioned to support roll out. If your country does not have a scale-up plan, pharmacy associations can support in the development of one.

More information on the DMPA-SC, including training materials and experiences from countries that have introduced it, can be found through references in the **Evidence and Resource Guide**.

### **Three common progestin-only injectable contraceptives**

	<b>DMPA-IM</b>	<b>DMPA-SC</b>	<b>NET-EN</b>
<b>Brand name</b>	<b>DepoProvera</b>	<b>Sayana Press</b>	<b>Noristerat</b>
<b>Months of protection</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>Intramuscular</b>	<b>Subcutaneous</b>	<b>Intramuscular</b>
<b>Dose</b>	<b>150 mg</b>	<b>104 mg</b>	<b>200mg</b>
<b>Mechanism</b>	<b>Vial and syringe</b>	<b>All in one uniject (single use)</b>	<b>Vial and syringe</b>