

## Removal of a deep contraceptive implant guidance

You have been referred to the Sexual and Reproductive Health Service at 4, Clover Street, Chatham, for removal of your contraceptive Implant, either because it has been assessed as difficult to remove or because it has not been possible to identify the implant in your arm.

The procedure may involve using an ultrasound machine to identify the location of the Implant in your arm. Once the specialist is satisfied that the Implant can be seen and removed, a small amount of local anaesthetic will be injected into the skin to numb the area before making a small incision (usually less than 2 cm long).

Occasionally the Implant can be close to some nerves and blood vessels within the arm. Although great care is taken in removing the Implant, very rarely the procedure - could cause injury to any of these nerves and blood vessels.

There may be some bruising around the wound during the procedure, so a pressure bandage may be put on your arm. It is important to keep this bandage clean and dry. You - may use your arm normally but must take extra care to avoid any infection at the wound site. The bandage can be removed after 72 hours.

The wound will be closed using either steri-strips (which should come off after 5 days) or dissolvable stitches (which will disappear after 7-10 days). You will have a small scar once this has healed.

If you notice the area becomes red, hot, swollen or painful or if there is any discharge from the wound, please seek medical advice from your GP or the sexual health clinic immediately.

### **Please note:**

- Unless the Implant is being removed for a planned pregnancy, please start an ongoing method of contraception before removal.
- You should allow 45 minutes or longer for this appointment. If you are more than 10 minutes late for your appointment it may have to be rescheduled.
- Please do not bring children to this procedure appointment.
- Although every effort will be given to remove the implant at this appointment, it may not be always possible. You may require a referral to a different specialist or to a Plastic Surgeon for very a difficult removal.

**If you have any concerns or queries, please telephone us on 0300 123 1678, contact your GP or attend your local sexual health clinic.**