

**Issue: Implanon Insertion by RAN's / AHW's**

Raised by: Women's Health Educators

Background: Questions raised about who is authorised to insert / remove Implanon.

Discussion: Organon, the company that produces the contraceptive device, recommends that 'The insertion and removal of Implanon should only be performed by a physician who is familiar with the technique, and who have undergone Implanon training courses conducted by Organon Australia'. Organon is not supportive of nurses undertaking this procedure.

This recommendation is based on the fact that insertion and removal can be difficult and may result in incorrect insertion that could lead to encapsulation of the device and involve surgical intervention for removal, or non-insertion that could lead to unwanted pregnancy. When properly trained, it has shown that very few problems result with insertion and removal. Client education is also a significant factor in the success and acceptance of this form of contraception over the longer term, and features strongly as part of the authorised training.

It is significant to note that Medical Defence Organisations will not back medical officers who have not undertaken the training.

Implanon is not listed as a drug to be administered by RAN's under section 29 of the Nurses regulation Act.

Apart from the manufacturer advice, there is potential that staff other than medical officers could be involved in the insertion/removal of Implanon. However, it does not appear to be warranted at this stage. Review of this should occur if client access to this form of contraception is shown to be limited due to reduced availability of trained DMOs. In the event of revisiting this topic, departmental legal opinion should be sought to ensure DHCS would be willing to support RAN/AHW use in light of the manufacturer's stance. The emergence of the Nurse Practitioner role in Remote Health may also be an indication for review.

Consultation: Organon,
Margaret O'Brien (O&G specialist, Top End)
Family Planning Association
Leonie Conn, Lisa Peberdy, Sandy McElligott (Women's Health)

References: Implanon News, Issue 1, August 2004

Outcome: In Remote Health Branch facilities, Implanon is only to be inserted / removed by Medical Officers who have undertaken the relevant training. Senior DMOs are responsible for ensuring this among their staff.

RANs and AHWs are not authorised to insert or remove Implanon devices.