CoSRH CEU statement: extension of use of the etonogestrel implant (Nexplanon®) to 5 years

13th May 2026

Nexplanon is now licensed for use for up to 5 years in the UK.

Available evidence supports use of the etonogestrel implant for up to 5 years, with maintained contraceptive effectiveness and no new safety concerns identified.

The change in licensing is based on evidence from a completed Phase 3, multicentre, open-label study (NCT04626596), which evaluated contraceptive efficacy and safety during years 4 and 5 of implant use.[1] The study enrolled 498 participants aged ≤35 years who had already completed 3 years of implant use. A total of 399 women were evaluated, having a mean age of 27 years, ranging from 18 to 35 years, and having been using the implant for 36 months (± 2 weeks) from the date of insertion at the time of enrolment.[2] The primary outcome was pregnancy rate (Pearl Index) during extended use.[1] No pregnancies were reported during years 4 and 5, corresponding to a Pearl Index of 0.0 (95% CI 0.00–0.69) per 100 woman-years, with no new safety concerns identified.[2] These findings indicate maintained contraceptive effectiveness during extended use for up to 5 years.[1,2]

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) updated the summary product characteristics (SPC) to extend the licensed duration of the implant for up to 5 years.[3] At the same time, the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL), available via the electronic medicines compendium (emc), was updated and reflects a duration of use of up to 5 years.[4]

References

1. ClinicalTrials.gov. A study to assess contraceptive efficacy and safety of etonogestrel (ENG) implant beyond 3 years of use (MK-8415-060) (NCT04626596) [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): U.S. National Library of Medicine; 2026 [cited 2026 May 12]. Available from: https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT04626596
2. Organon and Co. Organon announces U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval of supplemental new drug application extending duration of use of Nexplanon® (etonogestrel implant) 68 mg radiopaque [Internet]. Jersey City (NJ): Organon and Co.; 2026 [cited 2026 May 12]. Available from: https://www.organon.com/news/organon-announces-us-food-and-drug-administration-approval-of-supplemental-new-drug-application-extending-duration-of-use-of-nexplanon-etonogestrel-implant-68-mg-radiopaque/
3. Organon Pharma (UK) Limited. Nexplanon 68 mg implant for subdermal use: Summary of Product Characteristics [Internet]. Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA); [cited 2026 May 13]. Available from: https://mhraproducts4853.blob.core.windows.net/docs/7d43cd7a419a6c4cf56876bbb2b5dbe025de7931
4. Organon Pharma (UK) Limited. Nexplanon 68 mg implant for subdermal use: Patient Information Leaflet [Internet]. electronic medicines compendium (emc); 2026 May 12 [cited 2026 May 13]. Available from: https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5720/pil