

Implanon NXT[®] (etonogestrel)
Subdermal Implant
Training Recommendations for
Healthcare Professionals (HCPs)
in Australia

Version 4. November 2025.

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Definitions

Implanon NXT Trainee (Trainee): HCP who undertakes training on the appropriate use, insertion and removal of Implanon NXT.

Implanon NXT Future Trainer (Future Trainer): HCP who meets the recommended criteria (see page 9) and is undertaking training and assessment to become an Implanon NXT Trainer.

Implanon NXT Trainer (Trainer): HCP who meets the recommended criteria (see page 9) and has completed the appropriate training to become a Trainer.

Implanon NXT-proficient HCP: AHPRA-registered HCP that has undertaken Implanon NXT training and is skilled in Implanon NXT insertion and removal.

Introduction

Implanon NXT is an etonogestrel single rod subdermal implant, which provides long-acting reversible contraception.¹

To ensure the appropriate use and effective insertion and removal of Implanon NXT in Australian clinical practice, this document has been developed in consultation with experts in family planning and reproductive health. The following factors were taken into consideration during the development of the document:

- The Implanon NXT Approved Product Information (PI)¹
- Procedural and clinical guidelines in Australia and overseas for training in subdermal contraceptive implant techniques, including, but not limited to the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Health Guideline: Progestogen-only Implant, Therapeutic Guidelines, RANZCOG C-Gyn 3 Contraception Guideline, and the RACGP Implanon NXT checklist.²⁻⁵
- The experience of current Trainers
- Current Implanon NXT Train-the-Trainer programs
- Australia's National Women's Health Strategy 2020-2030 goal of increasing availability and uptake of long-acting reversible contraceptive options
- A need for sustainable reproductive and sexual health care in Australia through a flexible health workforce and innovative models of care

This document provides guidance on the following components of Implanon NXT training:

- Recommended Implanon NXT training for HCPs
- The knowledge and skills required by HCPs to competently insert and remove Implanon NXT appropriately and safely
- Criteria for Trainers
- Recommendations for training Trainers
- Resources available for Trainers

The recommendations provided relate to Implanon NXT insertion and removal theory and simulation training only. The following are beyond the scope of these training recommendations:

- Criteria for clinical training on live patients.
- Administration of local anaesthetic (including anaesthetic toxicity and anaphylaxis recognition and management, injection technique and dosage)
- Basic resuscitation/CPR training
- Practice and regulatory requirements related to contraceptive counselling
- Practice and regulatory requirements for prescribing of Implanon NXT and local anaesthetic agents.

Note: HCPs must seek further education and/or support if these procedures fall outside their current scope of practice.

Implanon NXT training recommendations for HCPs*

HCPs i.e., Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, General Practitioner, Nurse Practitioner, Midwife, Registered Nurse or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner wishing to perform contraceptive implant procedures are strongly recommended to participate in a training session to understand the theoretical aspects of Implanon NXT, familiarise themselves with the Implanon NXT applicator, the techniques for insertion and removal of Implanon NXT and where appropriate, request supervision prior to inserting or removing the implant.¹

Training of HCPs on the appropriate and safe use of Implanon NXT and the correct insertion and/or removal of Implanon NXT must include both theory and simulation components and can be undertaken either in person or virtually. During training, the Trainer must be able to demonstrate and describe the insertion and removal of Implanon NXT to the Trainee. Subsequently, the Trainee should be given the opportunity to practise correct insertion and removal of the implant using a model arm and placebos in a simulated environment.

It is recommended that Trainers use the requirements for the insertion and removal of Implanon NXT outlined below, to assess the Trainee. Once the Trainee completes the training and meets the requirements described, the Trainer should provide a training certificate to the HCP that highlights the completion of both the theoretical and simulation components of training. A template certificate is available on [Organon Pro](#)[#]

Upon completion of training, it is recommended that trainees who have not performed insertion and removal of Implanon NXT or similar procedures on live patients should seek suitable practical supervision in a clinical environment. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that the HCP performs insertion and removal of Implanon NXT in a patient, within a reasonable timeframe to consolidate skills learnt. If there is a significant delay between undertaking the training and practising the skill on live patients, the HCP should maintain their recency of knowledge and practice by either referring to the Implanon NXT [Product Information](#) and / or [insertion and removal videos](#) prior to inserting or removing.

Following training, each healthcare professional must exercise their own professional judgment to assess their competence prior to performing any insertion or removal procedure (as with all medical procedures).

Consideration for AHPRA-registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners (ATSIHP)

- ATSIHPs who have a medication-specific notation on their AHPRA registration cannot undertake Implanon NXT training.
- The Implanon NXT-proficient HCP (medical practitioner, registered nurse practitioners, or authorised midwife) must provide supervision to the ATSIHP for inserting and removing Implanon NXT during training and once assessed as competent. These procedures must be within the supervisor's own individual scope of practice.
- A workplace policy and procedure for ATSIHPs to perform Implanon NXT insertion and removals underpinned by relevant state or territory drugs and poisons legislation is required.
- Please note that Aboriginal Health Workers are beyond the scope of these Implanon NXT training recommendations

*HCPs who will only conduct Implanon NXT insertions are not required to complete training or simulation of Implanon NXT removal. The training certificate provided to these HCPs should state they have completed Implanon NXT insertion training only.

[#]Organon's HCP website which requires an AHPRA number for registration.

Requirements for the insertion and removal of Implanon NXT

1. The appropriate use and insertion of Implanon NXT requires that HCPs must be able to:

1.1 Assess an individual's suitability for Implanon NXT, including:

- Determining any contraindications to Implanon NXT¹
- Determining any contraindications to the use of antiseptic solution and use of local anaesthetic
- Review and consider the allergy status of the patient
- Review the patients' concurrent medicines, and any potential interactions with etonogestrel
- Determining the appropriate timing of Implanon NXT initiation, including determining pregnancy status prior to insertion and switching from another contraceptive method¹
- Gain informed consent for the procedure and document this in the patient records

Note: HCPs who are not authorised prescribers of Implanon NXT and/or local anaesthetic agents must ensure collaboration with an AHPRA registered nurse practitioner, midwife or medical practitioner who has prescribed the medication prior to insertion.

1.2 Provide advice about possible side effects and management options, including:

- Bleeding patterns and other side effects of Implanon NXT¹
- Follow up and management of adverse bleeding patterns and side effects⁷
- Ensure the patient has access to the Implanon NXT [Consumer Medicines Information](#) leaflet.

1.3 Set-up the environment for the insertion, including:

- The time that should be allowed, light requirements and equipment required for performing the procedure¹
- Requirement for hand hygiene, gloves and correct skin disinfection prior to procedure
- Other equipment required for sterile/aseptic technique

1.4 Position for insertion, including:

- Position the individual in accordance with the Implanon NXT PI instructions¹
- Position themselves in relation to the individual in accordance with Implanon NXT PI instructions¹

1.5 Prepare the insertion site, including:

- Identifying the insertion site in accordance with the Implanon NXT PI instructions¹
- Describing cleaning of site via use of appropriate skin preparation (such as antiseptic to sterilise the site)
- Identifying and administering appropriate local anaesthetic¹
- Demonstrating the correct application of anaesthesia at the insertion site using a model arm (or live person as appropriate)

1.6 Insert the implant, including:

- Appropriate technique for implant insertion in accordance with the Implanon NXT PI instructions¹
- Demonstrating that the implant is visible in the cannula prior to insertion
- Demonstrating correct implant insertion using a model arm (or live person as appropriate)
- Demonstrating palpation of both ends of implant after insertion to confirm its presence using a model arm (or live person as appropriate)¹
- Determining appropriate positioning of the implant, additional local anaesthetic requirements, and other considerations outlined in the Implanon NXT PI instructions if replacing an existing Implanon NXT with a new Implanon NXT ¹

1.7 Dress the insertion site, including:

- Appropriate use of dressing and pressure bandages

1.8 Provide advice to individual on self-care relating to insertion, including:

- Instructions on self-palpation¹
- Ongoing recommended care for dressing and pressure bandage
- Documentation detailing insertion site, insertion date and date for removal

1.9 Describe the appropriate steps to take in case of non-palpable implant following insertion, including:

- Checking the applicator following insertion. The needle of the applicator should be fully retracted and only the purple tip of the obturator should be visible.¹
- Describe suitable methods for localisation such as two-dimensional X-ray, Computerised Tomography (CT) scanning, Ultrasound scanning (USS) with a high- frequency linear array transducer (10 MHz or greater) or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- If the implant is localised and an HCP experienced with anatomy of the arm and complex removals is required, describe available referral pathways, including awareness of the Centres of Experience for Deep Implant Removal either via the [website](#) or via Organon (Ph: 1800 023 135 or E: dpoc.anz@organon.com).
- Describe recommended management steps when a contraceptive implant cannot be located via imaging, including: consulting Organon for guidance (Ph: 1800 023 135 or E: dpoc.anz@organon.com); verifying implant presence through etonogestrel blood levels; advising interim use of non-hormonal contraception; discussing timely localisation and removal of deeply placed implants to prevent migration; and recognising that exploratory surgery without confirmed location is contraindicated

2. The appropriate removal of Implanon NXT requires that HCPs must be able to:

2.1 Assess an individual's suitability for Implanon NXT removal, including:

- Palpation of the implant prior to initiating removal using a model arm (or live person as appropriate)
- Understanding of how impalpable, misplaced, migrated and deep implants may occur and steps to take when implant is not palpable, including referral pathways and imaging
- Considering any needs / preferences for ongoing contraception are met¹

Note: HCPs who are not authorised prescribers of local anaesthetic agents must ensure collaboration with an AHPRA registered nurse practitioner, midwife or medical practitioner who has prescribed the medication prior to removal.

2.2 Set-up the environment for the removal, including:

- The time that should be allowed, light requirements and equipment required for performing the removal
- Appropriate hand hygiene, gloves and correct skin disinfection prior to procedure¹
- Other equipment required for sterile/aseptic technique

2.3 Position for removal, including:

- Position the individual in accordance with the Implanon NXT PI instructions¹
- Position themselves in relation to the individual in accordance with Implanon NXT PI Instructions¹

2.4 Prepare the site for removal, including:

- Use of recommended antiseptic to sterilise and clean the site¹
- Demonstrating correct application of anaesthesia at the removal site using a model arm (or live person as appropriate)

2.5 Remove the implant, including:

- Incision and removal technique in accordance with the Implanon NXT PI instructions¹
- Demonstrating correct incision and removal of the implant using a model arm (or live person as appropriate)
- Confirmation that the entire 4cm long implant has been removed by measuring its length

2.6 Dress the insertion site, including:

- Appropriate use of dressing and pressure bandages¹

2.7 Provide advice to individual on self-care relating to removal, including:

- Recommendations for using another reliable contraceptive method on the same day that Implanon NXT is removed, if the individual is seeking to maintain contraception⁸
- Ongoing recommended care for dressing and pressure¹

2.8 Reinsertion of Implanon NXT as appropriate in line with updated PI recommendations:

- Ensure reinsertion is in line with the Implanon NXT PI instructions¹

2.9 Describe the appropriate steps to take in case of non-palpable implant at time of removal

- Describe suitable methods for localisation such as two-dimensional X-ray, CT scanning, USS with a high-frequency linear array transducer (10 MHz or greater) or MRI
- If the implant is localised and an HCP experienced with anatomy of the arm and complex removals is required, describe available referral pathways, including awareness of the Centres of Experience for Deep Implant Removal via the [website](#) or via Organon (Ph: 1800 023 135 or E: dpoc.anz@organon.com)
- Describe recommended management steps when a contraceptive implant cannot be located via imaging, including: consulting Organon for guidance (Ph: 1800 023 135 or E: dpoc.anz@organon.com); verifying implant presence through etonogestrel blood levels; advising interim use of non-hormonal contraception; discussing timely localisation and removal of deeply placed implants to prevent migration; and recognising that exploratory surgery without confirmed location is contraindicated.

Note: In the event of misplaced, faulty, or broken implants, or any other adverse event or possible adverse event involving Organon products, please forward the details to Organon (Ph: 1800 023 135 or E: dpoc.anz@organon.com). Adverse events can be directly reported to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Please refer to the TGA website for further details www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems.

Criteria for Implanon NXT Trainers

The recommended and desirable criteria for Trainers are outlined below.

Recommended criteria for Trainers:

The theoretical and simulated training of HCPs on the appropriate use, insertion, and removal of Implanon NXT should be undertaken by an HCP who:

- Has completed training (both theory and simulation), on the insertion and removal of Implanon NXT (see Implanon NXT training recommendations for HCPs)*
- Has clinical experience with the insertion and removal of Implanon NXT (≥ 10 insertions and ≥ 10 removals)^{9, 10*}
- Agrees to teach the standard Implanon NXT insertion and removal technique and comply with relevant applicable professional standards and the Implanon NXT PI¹
- Possesses current evidence-based knowledge in contraception
- Agrees, at a minimum, to provide training that delivers the requirements outlined above in this document
- Agrees to include both theoretical and simulation training components and allow time for discussion and questions
- Agrees to provide evidence of training (e.g., certificate) to HCPs who demonstrate the skills outlined in this document

*HCPs who will only conduct training on Implanon NXT insertions are not required to complete Implanon NXT removal simulation training or have clinical experience with removal of Implanon NXT. They must agree to teach the standard Implanon NXT insertion technique but are not permitted to teach the removal technique. The certificate they receive upon completion of a Trainer course will be for Implanon NXT Trainer insertion only. Any certificates they provide as Trainers must also state the training provided was Implanon NXT insertion training.

Desirable additional criteria for Trainers

- Recency of practise in Implanon NXT insertions and removals and more broadly contraception in a clinical setting
- Experience in supervising Implanon NXT trainees during insertion and removal procedures in the clinical environment.
- Experience in clinical education and / or health professional education.
- Evidence of professional development and/or qualification in the field of reproductive and sexual health e.g., FPAA National Certificate in Reproductive & Sexual Health for Doctors, Certificate of women's health, procedural or advanced procedural GP qualifications from RANZCOG, or an accredited reproductive and sexual health course for nurses or midwives, depending on professional group

For trainers that require resources for simulation training, please contact the Implanon NXT Helpdesk:

P: 1800 230 330

E: implanonnxthelpdesk@organon.com

Note: Trainers must complete a Train-the-Trainer course and provide the help desk with a copy of their certificate of training (from a recognised Train-the-Trainer provider) to be eligible to receive practical training resources.

Note: It is highly recommended that all Trainers register with [Organon Pro](#)[#], to gain access to the available theoretical resources.

[#]Organon's HCP website which requires an AHPRA number for registration.

Recommendations for Training Implanon NXT Trainers

The following recommendations have been developed for Trainers, to use as the basis for instructing and training Future Trainers on the appropriate use, insertion, and removal of Implanon NXT.

Prior to initiating training, the Trainer will need to confirm that the Future Trainer meets the recommended criteria (and preferably the desirable additional criteria) for Trainers and has a current AHPRA registration.

The training of Future Trainers, should include the following[&]:

- A theoretical component covering how to discuss with Trainees all relevant aspects of Implanon NXT (including clinical information, insertion and removal, guidance re: management of unfavourable bleeding, reference to clinical guidelines, etc.). See Resources available for Implanon NXT Trainers
- Assessment of the Future Trainer's ability to correctly demonstrate and explain to Trainees the Implanon NXT insertion and removal techniques
- Provision of training for facilitating learning and providing feedback
- Frequently Asked Questions, based on clinical experience and expertise of the Trainer
- Opportunity to answer any questions the Future Trainer may have
- Discussion of referral pathways to surgical services and/or interventional radiology, where conventional methods are not sufficient for cases of misplaced, deep or difficult to retrieve Implanon NXT
- Guidance regarding the provision of resources for the Future Trainer to use in simulation e.g., dummy arm, placebos, etc.
- Adverse Event reporting requirements: In the event of misplaced, faulty, or broken implants, or any other adverse event or possible adverse event involving Organon products, please report the details to Organon (Ph: 1800 023 135 or E: dpoc.anz@organon.com). Adverse events can be reported directly to the TGA (please refer to the TGA website for further details www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems).
- Provision of a certificate or similar documentation upon successful completion of training
- Reminder to Future Trainers to contact the Implanon NXT help desk upon completion of training and provide the help desk with a copy of their certificate of training. They will then be added to the list of Trainers and will be able to request simulation resources (e.g., dummy arm, placebos, etc.), to assist them with future training they provide.

Implanon NXT help desk:

P: 1800 230 330

E: implanonnxthelpdesk@organon.com

To maintain skills, it is suggested that Trainers:

- Provide Implanon NXT training regularly to maintain currency of practice (at least 1 session per year)
- Maintain knowledge, clinical practice and professional development in contraception practice and contraceptive implants

[&]These may be conducted in person and/or virtually.

Resources available for Implanon NXT Trainers

- [Implanon NXT Training Platform \(Organon Pro\)](#) - HCPs can register to access the Implanon NXT training slide deck, online learning modules, insertion and removal videos, template certificate, etc. **Note:** Registration requires an AHRPRA number
- [Implanon NXT videos](#) detailing insertion and removal techniques
- [Implanon NXT Product Information \(PI\)](#)
- [Implanon NXT Consumer Medicines Information](#)
- [Implanon NXT Patient Booklet](#) - available in English and eight other languages.
- [Implanon NXT Patient Booklet for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients](#)
- [Steps for Investigation for Non-palpable Implanon NXT](#)
- [Centres of Experience for Deep Implant Removals](#)
- [Implanon NXT® - Overview, GP checklist, and patient consent form - RACGP](#)

Australian and International Guidelines:

- Therapeutic Guidelines eTG Sexual and Reproductive guidelines. Available at <https://www.tg.org.au/>
Note: Subscription required to access
- [The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare of the Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians Guidelines and Statements Progesterone-only Implants](#)
- [Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use. 5th ed. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2015. PMID: 26447268](#)
- [The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare UK Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use. UKMEC 2016 \(Amended September 2019\).](#)
- [RANZCOG Contraception Clinical Guideline \(C-Gyn 3\)](#)

Resources for ATSIHP (up to date as of October 2025; subject to change):

- **VIC:** [Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act \(1981\)](#) and its associated regulation i.e., [Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations \(2017\)](#)
- **ACT:** [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Regulation \(2018\)](#)
- **NSW:** [Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act \(1966\)](#) and its associated regulation i.e., [NSW Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Legislation \(2008\)](#)
- **SA:** [Controlled Substances Act \(1984\)](#) and its associated regulation i.e., [Controlled Substances \(Poisons\) Regulations \(2011\)](#)
- **TAS:** [Poisons Act \(1971\)](#) and its associated regulation i.e., [Poisons Regulations \(2018\)](#)
- **NT:** [Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act \(2012\)](#) and its associated regulation i.e., [Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulations \(2014\)](#)
- **QLD:** [Medicines and Poisons Act \(2019\)](#) and its associated regulation i.e., [Medicines and Poisons \(Medicines\) Regulation \(2021\)](#) (schedule 3); [Extended Practice Authority](#)
- **WA:** [Medicines and Poisons Act \(2014\)](#) and its associated regulation i.e., [Medicines and Poisons Regulations \(2016\)](#)

Other Resources:

- [ASHM Contraception Essentials: Navigating a Consultation - Video](#)
- [ASHM Decision Making in Contraception - Tool](#)
- [AusCAPPS Network](#): A community of practice to support the provision of long-acting reversible contraception and medical termination of pregnancy in primary care
- [Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine Resources](#)
- [Family Planning Australia Professional Resources](#)
- [Family Planning Tasmania – Choosing Contraception](#)
- [Family Planning Welfare Association of Northern Territory – Contraception Information](#)
- [Sexual and Reproductive Health Australia](#)
- [Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT – Sexual and Reproductive Health Information](#)
- [Sexual Health Victoria Clinical Resources](#)
- [SHINE SA Contraception Information](#)
- [Sexual Health Quarters - Contraception Choices](#)
- [TRUE Relationships and Reproductive Health – Contraception resources](#)

Endorsement

This document has been endorsed by the following organisations:



The following organisations were consulted regarding content pertaining to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners:

- The National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP)
- The Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)

Review Date

This document should be reviewed in the event of significant changes to clinical practice, or upon request by applicable stakeholders. The sponsor company will coordinate reviews with the endorsing bodies and other relevant stakeholders.

References

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3. Etonogestrel contraceptive implant [published December 2020; amended June 2023]. In: *Therapeutic Guidelines*. Melbourne: Therapeutic Guidelines Limited; accessed 24th March 2025. <https://www.tg.org.au>
4. C-Gyn 3 Contraception RANZCOG, 2024. <https://ranzocg.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/Contraception-Clinical-Guideline.pdf>; accessed 16th April 2025.
5. RACGP's National Standing Committee - Quality Care and National Standing Committee - GP Advocacy & Support (2024) 'Implanon NXT checklist and consent form'. Accessible at: <https://www.racgp.org.au/getmedia/d2559711-3440-4981-82d5-cc60feb88de8/Implanon-NXT-checklist-and-consent-form.pdf.aspx>
6. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia – Frameworks. <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/codes-guidelines-statements/frameworks.aspx>; accessed 16th April 2025.
7. Mansour D *et al.* *Eur J Contracept Reprod Health Care*. 2008;13(suppl 1):13–28.
8. IMPLANON NXT Consumer Medicines Information
9. Williams RG, *et al.* *Teach Learn Med*. 2003;15(4):270-92.
10. Wass V, *et al.* *The Lancet*. 2001;357(9260):945-9.

The document uses individual as an inclusive and broad term that refers to and acknowledges the diversity in needs and experiences of all people who may access and use Implanon NXT.