

# Is Birth Control Available Over-the-Counter?

We'd like to clear up the differences between over-the-counter (OTC) and pharmacist prescribing (also known as "pharmacy access").

	Pharmacist Prescribing	Over-the-Counter (OTC)
<b>Approval</b>	State law or regulation	FDA
<b>Methods</b>	Pill, patch, ring, shot, emergency contraception	Condoms, spermicides, emergency contraception
<b>Availability</b>	Participating pharmacies in selected states	Pharmacies, other stores, and online
<b>Prescription</b>	Prescribed by a pharmacist after reviewing your health history and measuring your blood pressure	No prescription required
<b>Doctor Visit</b>	No visit or physical exam required	No visit or physical exam required
<b>Age Restriction</b>	Depends on state	None
<b>Birth Control Costs</b>	Covered by Insurance	Depends on state and insurance; may require a prescription for coverage
<b>Visit Costs</b>	Depends on state and insurance; may cost up to \$50 without coverage	None
<b>Time</b>	5-20 minutes for visit	<5 minutes for purchase
<p><b>Learn more about birth control pharmacies or find a participating pharmacy near you:</b>  <a href="https://www.birthcontrolpharmacies.com/">https://www.birthcontrolpharmacies.com/</a></p>		