

# All About the Birth Control Implant (Implanon)

Clinic Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ 24 Hour emergency phone # \_\_\_\_\_

## What is the birth control implant?

The birth control implant is a flexible plastic rod the size of a matchstick that is put under the skin of your arm by your clinician. It contains a small amount of one of the hormones made by a woman's body (progestin).

## How does the birth control implant work?

The birth control implant works mostly by keeping the woman's eggs from leaving her ovaries, that way the man's sperm and the woman's egg will not meet.

## How well does it work?

The birth control implant is more than 99% effective in keeping a woman from getting pregnant. That means that less than 1 woman in 100 using the birth control implant will get pregnant.

## How is the birth control implant inserted?

- Getting the implant inserted takes just a few minutes. Your clinician will numb your skin before inserting the implant to decrease any discomfort. Most women say it feels like a pinch.
- There usually are no problems with having the implant inserted, but if you have **bleeding or pus** from the injection site call your clinic right away. Pain, swelling, and bruising are other possible complications.
- You will be able to feel the implant under your skin. If you do not feel it, or the implant comes out call your clinic. Use another form of birth control (like condoms) and ask about Emergency Contraception.
- The implant can stay in for up to 3 years, but you can have your clinician remove it anytime you want. **It is very important to have the implant removed in three years.**
- If you want to continue using the implant as your method of birth control at the end of three years, you can have another one inserted.
- You will get an information card to take home with you that will have information about when your implant was inserted and when it needs to be removed.

## How is the birth control implant removed?

- Your clinician will numb your skin and make a small incision (cut) in your arm and remove the implant.
- Complications are rare, but you may experience a little swelling or tenderness.

## What are the side effects of the implant?

Some side effects **may be:**

- Changes in your period or spotting and bleeding between periods
- Moodiness
- Weight gain
- Headaches

## Some women should not use the implant.

- If you have ever had blood clots in your legs, lungs, or eyes
- If you have unexplained bleeding from your vagina
- If you have had a stroke
- If you have liver disease
- If you have or have ever had breast cancer

## What are some other things I should know about the implant?

- It is very effective in keeping a woman from getting pregnant.
- You can have it removed anytime if you decide you want to get pregnant.
- Most women are able to get pregnant right away (sometimes within days) after having the implant removed.
- If you have the implant removed and don't want to become pregnant, be sure to ask your clinic about other methods of birth control.

### Watch for these warning signs.

Call your clinic if you have:

- **Heavy bleeding**
- **Pain, pus, or bleeding from at injection site**
- **Severe headaches**
- **Severe depression**
- **New breast lump**
- **Pain in your stomach**
- **The implant comes out or you can't feel it**
- **A severe allergic reaction**

**The birth control implant does not protect you from HIV (the AIDS virus) and other diseases you could get from having sex. Use condoms along with the implant to protect yourself from these diseases.**