

Checklist for Screening Clients Who Want to Initiate Contraceptive Implants

Contraceptive implants, such as Jadelle, Sinoplant, Implanon, and Nexplanon are safe and effective for use by most women, including those who are at risk of cardiovascular disease, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV infection, or those living with HIV. For some women, implants are generally not recommended because of the presence of certain medical conditions, such as breast cancer. Women who desire to use implants must therefore be screened for certain medical conditions to determine if they are appropriate candidates.

The simple checklist below was developed to help health care providers screen clients who have been counseled about contraceptive options and who have made an informed decision to use implants.

The checklist is based on recommendations included in the *Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use* (WHO, updated 2015). The questions are designed to identify medical conditions that would prevent safe use of implants or require further evaluation. Clients who are ruled out because of their response to some of the medical eligibility questions may still be good candidates for implants if the suspected condition can be excluded through appropriate evaluation. A health care provider should complete the checklist before inserting the implant(s).

Ask the client the questions below about known medical conditions. Examinations and tests are not necessary. If she answers “no” to all of the questions, then she can have implants inserted if she wants. If she answers “yes” to a question, follow the instructions. In some cases she can still start using implants.

1. Do you have or have you ever had breast cancer?

NO **YES** Do not provide implants. Help her choose a method without hormones.

2. Do you have a serious problem now with a blood clot in your legs or lungs?

NO **YES** If she reports a current blood clot (not superficial clots), and she is not on anticoagulant therapy, do not provide implants. Help her choose a method without hormones.

3. Do you have severe cirrhosis of the liver, a liver infection, or liver tumor? (Are her eyes or skin unusually yellow? [signs of jaundice])

NO **YES** If she reports serious liver disease (such as severe cirrhosis or liver tumor), do not provide implants. Help her choose a method without hormones.

4. Are you having vaginal bleeding that is unusual for you?

NO **YES** If she has unexplained vaginal bleeding that suggests pregnancy or an underlying medical condition, implants could make diagnosis and monitoring of any treatment more difficult. Help her choose a method to use while being evaluated and treated (not progestin-only injectables or a copper-bearing or LNG-IUD). After treatment, re-evaluate for use of implants.

5. Have you ever been told that you have a rheumatic disease, such as lupus?

NO **YES** Women should not use implants if they report having lupus with positive (or unknown) antiphospholipid antibodies and are not on immunosuppressive therapy.

If the client answered **NO** to *all of questions 1–5*, she can use implants. Proceed to questions 6–10.

If the client answered **YES** to *question 1*, she is not a good candidate for implants. Counsel about other available methods or refer.

If the client answered **YES** to *any of questions 2–5*, implants cannot be initiated without further evaluation. Evaluate or refer as appropriate, and give condoms to use in the meantime.

Ask questions 6–10 to be reasonably sure that the client is not pregnant. As soon as the client answers **YES** to *any question*, stop, and follow the instructions after question 10.

6. Did your last menstrual period start within the past 7 days?

7. Did you have a baby less than 6 months ago, are you fully or nearly-fully breastfeeding, and have you had no menstrual period since then?

8. Have you abstained from sexual intercourse since your last menstrual period or delivery?

9. Have you had a miscarriage or abortion in the last 7 days?

10. Have you been using a reliable contraceptive method consistently and correctly?

If the client answered **YES** to *at least one of questions 6–10* and she is free of signs or symptoms of pregnancy, you can be reasonably sure that she is not pregnant. The client can have implants inserted now.

If the client began her last menstrual period within the past 7 days (5 days for Implanon), she can have implants inserted now. No additional contraceptive protection is needed.

If the client began her last menstrual period more than 7 days ago (5 days for Implanon), she can have implants inserted now, but instruct her that she must use condoms or abstain from sex for the next 7 days. Give her condoms to use for the next 7 days.

If the client answered **NO** to all of questions 6–10, pregnancy cannot be ruled out. She must use a pregnancy test or wait until her next menstrual period to have implants inserted. Give her condoms to use in the meantime.