

PATH/W/ill Boase



An overview of subcutaneous DMPA: A new type of injectable contraception that expands access and options

A new type of injectable contraception is transforming the way women and adolescent girls access and use family planning. **Subcutaneous DMPA, or DMPA-SC,**^{*} is an innovative product that makes injections simpler. Because DMPA-SC is easy to use, any trained person can administer it, including community health workers, pharmacists, and even women themselves.

As governments work to ensure a wide variety of contraceptives is available in their country, they should consider how offering DMPA-SC can address unmet need and increase access through a range of delivery channels.

Benefiting users, providers, and health systems

- **99 percent effective** at preventing unintended pregnancy when given correctly and on time every three months.
- **Discreet contraception** for women and adolescent girls.
- **Prefilled** and ready to inject.
- **Small and light.**
- **Simple to inject** due to short needle.
- **Stable at room temperature** (15°C to 30°C).
- **Three-year shelf life.**
- **Simplified logistics**—no need to match vial with syringe and needle, easier to manage the all-in-one product and less bulky than DMPA-IM.
- **Easy to deliver** through clinics, community-based distribution, pharmacies, and drug shops.

^{*}DMPA stands for depot medroxyprogesterone acetate.



The term “subcutaneous DMPA”: What you need to know

Subcutaneous DMPA is a general term used to describe an injectable contraceptive that is administered under the skin. Traditional DMPA is injected into the muscle, which generally requires more training and skill.

Sayana[®] Press,^{*} manufactured by Pfizer Inc., is the brand name of the subcutaneous DMPA product available today in most countries. This “all-in-one” product combines the contraceptive drug and needle into a single device. Other versions of subcutaneous DMPA products may become available in the future.

The information in this overview is specific to Sayana Press.

^{*}Sayana Press is a registered trademark of Pfizer Inc.

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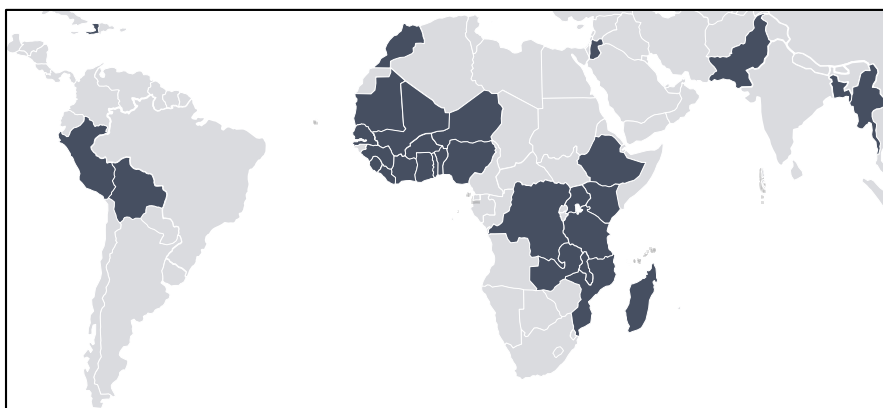


“Sayana Press is an easy method. I like it because it is all-in-one and always ready for use. It makes the work easier and I lose less time. In the end, I have more time to spend with clients.”

—Midwife, Senegal

Empowering women and driving outcomes

- Product is **registered for self-injection** in more than 50 countries, including the United Kingdom, several European countries, and more than 20 Family Planning (FP) 2020 countries.*
- **The World Health Organization (WHO) has made a strong recommendation for self-injection**, stating that it should be made available as an additional approach to deliver injectable contraception and for self-care.
- Evidence from Uganda and Senegal indicates **self-injection in sub-Saharan Africa is feasible and acceptable**.
- Recent results from four different countries show that **women who self-inject DMPA-SC continue using injectable contraception longer** than those who receive injections from providers—meaning fewer unintended pregnancies.
- Data from Senegal and Uganda demonstrate that, compared to provider-administered DMPA-IM, **self-injection of DMPA-SC is not just cost-effective but cost saving** when accounting for costs to both women and health systems.



Select countries where DMPA-SC piloting, introduction, or scale-up is in process (as of September 2019)

- Bangladesh
- Benin
- Bolivia
- Burkina Faso
- Cote d'Ivoire
- DRC
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Haiti
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia

Taking off around the world

- Being piloted, introduced, or scaled up in more than **30 FP2020 countries**.
- **Approved by regulatory agencies in nearly 60 countries worldwide**, including in the European Union.
- **Offered at US\$0.85 per dose for qualified purchasers**[†]—for example, ministries of health and donors—in FP2020 countries.

[†]This pricing reflects a six-year agreement. During the six years (2017–2022), the price is guaranteed at US\$0.85. After the agreement, Pfizer Inc. is committed to ensuring the product continues to be available

How is DMPA-SC different from DMPA-IM?

DMPA-SC (Sayana® Press)

Comes in a prefilled, **“all-in-one” injection system.**

Is injected under the skin.

Has lower dose of DMPA (104 mg).

Has 2.5-centimeter needle.

Can be administered by **clinic providers, community health workers, pharmacists, or by women themselves** where allowed.

Is currently available to qualified purchasers for **US\$0.85 per dose.**



DMPA-IM (Depo-Provera®* and generic options)

Comes in a **vial with a separate syringe.**

Is injected into the muscle.

Has higher dose of DMPA (150 mg).

Has 3.8-centimeter needle.

Typically administered by providers, but can be administered by community health workers and pharmacists where allowed.

Is currently available for about **US\$0.70–0.80 per dose.**

What do DMPA-SC and DMPA-IM have in common?

- ◀ **Safe and highly effective at preventing unintended pregnancy.**
- ◀ **Delivered every three months.**
- ◀ **Do not protect from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.** (For more information, please see the tool, “DMPA and HIV: What advocates need to know.”)
- ◀ **Comparable in regard to side effects.**
- ◀ **Based on its lower dose, DMPA-SC is expected to have a side-effect profile that is similar to or better than that of DMPA-IM.** Some women may experience side effects with either DMPA product, such as menstrual bleeding irregularities, headaches, weight gain, and injection-site reactions, including mild pain or inflammation.

*Depo-Provera is a registered trademark of Pfizer Inc.