



PATH/Will Boase

Common terms for DMPA injectable contraception



How to use this tool: This glossary is intended to help advocates understand the terms surrounding DMPA injectables, inform messaging and communication, and serve as a resource for understanding other materials in this advocacy pack.

The introduction of new contraceptives means more options for advocates to discuss and decision-makers to consider. The emergence of the subcutaneous form of DMPA (DMPA-SC), in particular, brings a new set of terms for advocates and decision-makers to understand and use. While the terminology on DMPA injectables may sometimes be confusing, advocates should understand the different types of DMPA products available and know how to discuss them in a way that is clear, consistent, and easy to understand.

Often times, language describing DMPA injectables uses names of branded products that are available in a particular country. For example, many people refer to the currently available DMPA-SC product by its brand name, Sayana® Press.* However, as more options become available in the years ahead—including generics—it's important that stakeholders adopt a nonproprietary set of terms not tied to any one brand. Advocates can play a key role in ensuring that decision-makers consider a variety of DMPA-SC products (branded or generic) to add to their contraceptive method mix.

*Sayana Press is a registered trademark of Pfizer Inc.

Definitions and recommended terms for DMPA injectables

- **DMPA:** The broad term for injectable contraceptive products containing depot medroxyprogesterone acetate, a common progestogen-only** contraceptive. When injected, DMPA releases the contraceptive agent, medroxyprogesterone acetate, over time.

**You might also be familiar with the term "progestin-only" injectables. Progestogen-only and progestin-only injectables refer to the same thing.

Intramuscular DMPA

- **Intramuscular DMPA:** Preferred term to describe DMPA products that are injected into the muscle.
- **DMPA-IM:** General acronym for the intramuscular form of DMPA that encompasses both branded and generic products.
 - ▶ **Depo-Provera:** Pfizer Inc. brand of DMPA-IM, available in vials or prefilled syringes. Also known as “Depo-IM” or simply “Depo” in some contexts and countries.



PATH/Patrick McKern

Subcutaneous DMPA

- **Subcutaneous DMPA:** Preferred term to describe DMPA products that are injected under the skin.
- **DMPA-SC or DMPA-SubQ:** General acronym or shorthand for the subcutaneous form of DMPA that encompasses both branded and future generic products.
 - ▶ **Sayana Press:** Pfizer Limited (UK) brand of DMPA-SC that comes prefilled in the Uniject™ injection system.* This is a branded product name.
- **Self-injection:** A new way of providing DMPA-SC, in which women are trained to administer DMPA-SC contraception under their own skin, and reinject on a regular schedule. Self-injection allows women the freedom of using injectables on their own timeline and in a location they choose.
 - ▶ **Home and self-injection (HSI or H/SI):** Refers specifically to use of self-injection in a home setting. HSI may include a trained partner administering the DMPA-SC. It is worth noting that home-based use is generally implied by the term self-injection.



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*Uniject is a trademark of BD.