

Arizona governor makes contraceptive medications available over the counter at pharmacies

July 7 2023



Democratic Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs delivers her State of the State address at the Arizona Capitol in Phoenix, Jan. 9, 2023. Adults in Arizona can now obtain contraceptive medications over the counter at a pharmacy without a doctor's prescription under a governor's order announced Thursday, July 6, 2023. Credit: AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin, File

Adults in Arizona can now obtain contraceptive medications over the counter at a pharmacy without a doctor's prescription under a governor's order announced Thursday.

Gov. Katie Hobbs said the rule will go into effect immediately. It applies to self-administered birth control such as hormonal and [oral contraceptives](#), and patients 18 or older need only complete a screening and a blood pressure test.

"We are building an Arizona for everyone, which means ensuring people across the state have what they need to live a free and [healthy life](#)," the Democratic governor said in a statement.

Over 20 states have statutes that let pharmacists dispense FDA-approved [hormonal contraceptives](#) without a prescription, according to a statement from the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Hobbs has used her executive powers in recent weeks to promote reproductive freedom. In June she issued a sweeping executive order effectively stripping prosecutors of their ability to pursue charges against anyone involved with a legally obtained abortion.

She also plans to support legislation next year that would codify access to [birth control](#).

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Citation: Arizona governor makes contraceptive medications available over the counter at pharmacies (2023, July 7) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-07-arizona-governor-contraceptive-medications-counter.html>

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