

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
POLICY

Subject: Insurance Coverage of Prescription Contraceptives
Document Number: PS-149-0
Effective Date: June 1, 2018
Revision Date(s): NA

POLICY STATEMENT

Research indicates that 99 percent of women of reproductive age have used at least one method of contraception at some point in time during their lifetime, of which 88 percent have used a highly effective, reversible method such as birth control pills, an injectable, or an intrauterine device.

Research further indicates that while two-thirds of women cite the reason for taking oral contraceptive pills (OCPs) for pregnancy prevention, more than half, 58 percent, rely on OCPs for other purposes to include menstrual pain, menstrual regulation, acne, endometriosis, and other unspecified reasons.

With increasing access and use of effective contraception, the abortion rate in the United States has achieved a 40-year low. Unintended pregnancies have also decreased.

Based on published research, the SDSMA believes that providing contraception to women at no cost increases the use of highly effective contraceptive methods and reduces abortion rates.

The SDSMA further believes that prescription drug benefit plans offered in the state of South Dakota should include coverage of prescription contraceptives at no cost to enrollees. Access to contraceptives without cost sharing should include equivalent options.

AUTHORITY

South Dakota State Medical Association Council of Physicians, 11/3/2017; Reaffirmed by South Dakota State Medical Association Board of Directors 6/1/2018.