

# Norethisterone

NOT RECOMMENDED AS AN  
ESSENTIAL MEDICINE

Section: 22. Medicines for reproductive health and perinatal care > 22.1. Contraceptives > 22.1.1. Oral hormonal contraceptives

ATC codes: **G03AC01**

**Indication** Contact with health services for contraceptive management

ICD11 code: **QA21**

**INN** Norethisterone

**Medicine type** Chemical agent

**List type** Complementary

**Formulations** Oral > Solid: 350 µg

**EML status history** First added in 1979 ([TRS 641](#))  
Changed in 1982 ([TRS 685](#))  
Removed in 1995 ([TRS 867](#))

**Sex** Female

**Age** Adolescents and adults

**Therapeutic alternatives** Medicines within the same pharmacological class can be used

**Patent information** Patents have expired in most jurisdictions  
Read more [about patents](#). 

**Wikipedia** [Norethisterone](#) 

**DrugBank** [Norethisterone](#) 

## Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

Levonorgestrel replaced norethisterone as the representative progesterone-only oral contraceptive as it is considered safer in breast-feeding mothers.

