



Photo: PATH/Will Boase

## Common terms for DMPA injectable contraception

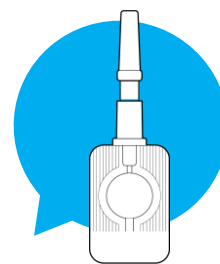
**How to use this tool:** This glossary is intended to help advocates understand the terms surrounding DMPA injectables, inform messaging and communication, and serve as a resource for understanding other materials in this Advocacy Pack.

The introduction of new contraceptives means more options for advocates to discuss and decision-makers to consider. The ongoing introduction, scale-up, and mainstreaming of the subcutaneous form of DMPA (DMPA-SC<sup>\*</sup>) brings a new set of terms for advocates and decision-makers to understand and use. Advocates should understand the different types of DMPA products available and be able to discuss them clearly and consistently.

Often, 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<sup>®</sup> Press.<sup>†</sup> However, as more options become available in the years ahead—including generic products—it is 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.

<sup>\*</sup> DMPA stands for depot medroxyprogesterone acetate.

<sup>†</sup> Sayana Press is a registered trademark of Pfizer Inc.



### Quick facts about DMPA-SC

- ✓ **99% effective** at preventing unintended pregnancy when given correctly and on time every three months. Does not protect from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.
- ✓ **Prefilled and ready to inject.**
- ✓ **Easy to use**, including by community health workers and women themselves (self-injection).
- ✓ **Small and light**, with a **short needle.**
- ✓ **Stable at room temperature** (15°C–30°C).
- ✓ **Three-year shelf life.**
- ✓ **Registered in more than 80 countries, with approval for self-injection in more than 55 countries**, including countries across sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America, several European countries, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- ✓ **Can be purchased at US\$0.85 per dose** in the standard 200-pack presentation by qualified buyers\* (including ministries of health in low-income countries).

\* For more information on qualified buyers and eligible countries, please contact

[FPOptions@path.org](mailto:FPOptions@path.org).

## Definitions and recommended terms for DMPA injectables

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

### Intramuscular DMPA

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



### Subcutaneous DMPA

- **Subcutaneous DMPA:** Preferred term to describe DMPA products that are injected under the skin.
- **DMPA-SC:** General abbreviation or shorthand for the subcutaneous form of DMPA that encompasses both branded and future generic products.
  - ▶ **Sayana Press:** The Pfizer Inc. brand of DMPA-SC that comes prefilled in BD’s Uniject™ injection system.
- **Self-injection:** A way of providing DMPA-SC in which women are trained to administer DMPA-SC contraception themselves 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.



Photos: PATH/Patrick McKern, PATH/Gabe Biencycki

<sup>‡</sup>“Progestogen-only” and “progestin-only” injectables carry the same meaning.