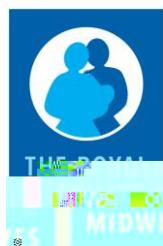




FSRH Guideline

Contraception After Pregnancy

FSRH | January 2017 (Amended October 2020)



Royal College of

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Abbreviations Used

APS	antepartum preeclampsia syndrome
CEU	Clinical Effectiveness Unit
CHC	combined oral contraceptive
CI	confidence interval
COC	combined oral contraceptive
Cu-IUD	copper intrauterine device
CVR	combined contraceptive vaginal ring
DMPA	depot medroxyprogesterone acetate



Grading of Recommendations

Please refer to [Appendix 1](#) for a full explanation of the classification of evidence level and ranking of recommendations

A

At least one meta-analysis, systematic review or randomised controlled trial (RCT) rated as 1++, and directly applicable to the target population;

o

A systematic review of RCTs or a body of evidence consisting principally of studies rated as 1+, directly applicable to the target population and demonstrating overall consistency of results.

B

A body of evidence including studies rated as 2++ directly applicable to the





5. Contraception After Gestational Trophoblastic Disease (GTD) 58
- Discussion and provision of contraception after GTD-----



Executive Summary of Recommendations

1. Introduction: Contraception after Pregnancy

Discussion and provision of contraception after pregnancy

What methods of contraception are available in the UK?

Clinicians should refer to the relevant current FHM guidelines, including the UK Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (KMEC) when making a clinical judgement on safe and appropriate methods of contraception for a woman after pregnancy.

Effectiveness of contraceptive method

Women should be informed during pregnancy about the effectiveness of different contraceptives, including the superior effectiveness of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) when choosing an appropriate method to use after pregnancy.

Information giving and counselling

All clinicians involved in the care of pregnant women should provide the opportunity to discuss contraception.

Whenever contraceptive counselling is provided, care should be taken to ensure women do not feel under pressure to choose a method of contraception.

D Clinicians should adopt a person-centred approach when providing contraceptive counselling.

Clinicians who are given advice to women about contraception after pregnancy should ensure that this information is easy up-to-date and accurate.

Co-pre-emptive unbiased and accurate information on choice **4.7** choice **1-**





Women should be informed about the effectiveness of the different contraceptive methods, including the superior effectiveness of non-actin reversible contraception. LAC when choosing an appropriate method to use after childbirth -

D

Clinicians should adopt a person-centred approach when providing women with contraceptive counselling -



Who should provide contraception to women after childbirth?

- Appropriately trained clinicians, including sexual and reproductive health doctors and nurses, obstetricians, midwives, nurses, general practitioners, GPs, and health visitors should be able to provide women with contraception after childbirth.
- Maternity services should be able to provide LARC and progestin-only methods, including IMP, injectable POI or pill POP to women before they are discharged from the service after childbirth.
- Maternity services should ensure that there are sufficient numbers of staff able to provide LARC or IMP so that women who choose these methods and are discharged can initiate them immediately after childbirth.
- Women who are unable to be provided with their chosen method of contraception should be informed about services where their chosen method can be accessed. A temporary bridging method should be offered where necessary.



- C** Oral EC (levonorgestrel, LNG_EC and ulipristal acetate, PA_EC) are safe to use from 1 day after childbirth - the copper intrauterine device (Cu-IUD) is safe to use for EC from 7 days after childbirth.
- C** Women who breastfeed should be informed that available updated evidence indicates that LNG_EC has no adverse effects on breastfeeding or on their infants.
- D** Women who breastfeed should be advised not to breastfeed and to express and discard milk for a week after they have taken PA_EC.

Is additional contraception required after initiation of a method after childbirth?

Women should be advised that additional contraceptive precautions (e.g. barrier method or abstinence) are required for oral contraceptives started 1 day or more after childbirth. Additional contraceptive precautions are not required for contraceptives initiated immediately or within 1 day after childbirth.

Breastfeeding and contraception

Does initiation of hormonal contraceptives affect breastfeeding outcomes or infant outcomes?

- A** Women who are breastfeeding should be informed that the available evidence indicates that progestin-only methods of contraception (LNG-IUD, IMP, POI and POP) have no adverse effects on lactation, infant growth or development.
- B** Women who are breastfeeding should wait until 1 week after childbirth before initiating a CHC method.
- B** Women who are breastfeeding should be informed that there is only 1 evidence -



Method-specific considerations

Intrauterine contraception (IUC)

- B** IUC can be safely inserted immediately after birth within 10 minutes of delivery of the placenta or within the first 4 hours after uncomplicated caesarean section or vaginal birth - After 4 hours insertion should be delayed until 4 days after childbirth -

Progestogen-only implants (IMP)

- C** IMP can be safely started at any time after childbirth, including immediately after delivery

Progestogen-only injectable (POI)

- C** POI can be started at any time after childbirth, including immediately after delivery

Progestogen-only pills (POP)

- C** POP can be started at any time after childbirth, including immediately after delivery

Combined hormonal contraception (CHC)

- C** All women should undergo a risk assessment for VTE postnatally. CHC should not be used by women who have risk factors for venous thromboembolism. These include obesity, transfusion at delivery, body mass index (BMI) ≥ 30 kg/m² postpartum, or a previous post-caesarean delivery pre-eclampsia or stroke. This applies to both women who are breastfeeding and not breastfeeding -

- B** Women who are not breastfeeding and are without additional risk factors for VTE should wait until 14 days after childbirth before initiating a CHC method

Female sterilisation

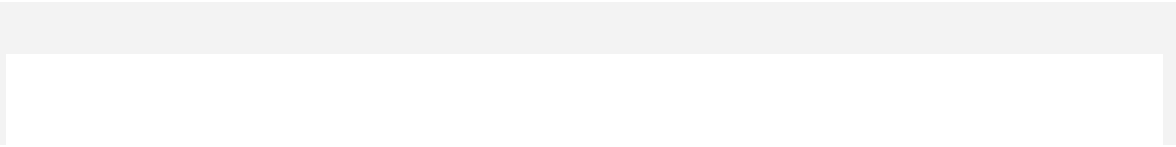
- A** Female sterilisation is a safe option for permanent contraception after childbirth -

- A** For sterilisation after childbirth both Falgout clips and modified Pomeroy technique are effective. Falgout clip applications quicker to perform -

- D**



C





When can contraception be initiated after abortion?

B

A woman's chosen method of contraception should be initiated immediately after abortion, on oral and subcutaneous.

B

Contraception should be initiated immediately after abortion. Contraception should be initiated immediately after abortion, on oral and subcutaneous. Contraception should be initiated immediately after abortion, on oral and subcutaneous. Contraception should be initiated immediately after abortion, on oral and subcutaneous.



Medical eligibility

Which methods of contraception are safe to use after abortion?

D

Women should be advised that any method of contraception can be safely initiated immediately after an uncomplicated abortion.

D

Diaphragms should not be inserted in the presence of post-abortion sepsis.

Is emergency contraception (EC) safe to use after abortion?

Emergency contraception (EC) is indicated for women who have had unprotected sexual intercourse. PPI from 7 days after abortion.



Combined hormonal contraception (CHC)

B Combined hormonal contraception (CHC) can be safely started, initiated at any time after abortion

Female Sterilisation

D Female sterilisation is a safe option for permanent contraception after abortion

Women should be advised that some LARC methods are as or more effective than female sterilisation and may confer non-contraceptive benefits. However women should not feel pressured into choosing LARC over female sterilisation

B Tubal occlusion should ideally be performed after some time has elapsed after abortion. Women who request tubal occlusion to be performed at the time of abortion should be advised of the possible increased failure rate and risk of regret

Clinicians should ensure that consent from the woman to conduct female sterilisation at the same time as surgical abortion is taken and documented in advance of the abortion

Barrier methods

D Condoms and female condoms can be used by women after abortion

D Women choosing to use a diaphragm should be advised to wait at least two weeks after second trimester abortion because the size of diaphragm required may change as the uterus returns to normal size

Fertility awareness methods (FAM)

D Fertility awareness methods (FAM) can be used by women after abortion. However women should be advised that because FAM relies on the detection of the signs and symptoms of fertility and ovulation, its use may be difficult after abortion

4. Contraception After Ectopic Pregnancy or Miscarriage

Discussion and provision of contraception after ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage

When should contraception be discussed/provided?

Services providing care to women with ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage should have the opportunity to discuss their fertility intentions, contraception and preconception planning -

Whenever contraceptive counselling is provided care should be taken to ensure women do not feel under pressure to choose a method of contraception

D If a woman wishes to delay or prevent a further pregnancy effective contraception should be initiated as soon as possible as sexual activity and ovulation may resume very soon after ectopic pregnancy or



Services should have a range of pathways of care to local services for women who may require additional non-medical care and support

Record keeping and obtaining valid consent

D

Clinicians should clearly document the discussion and provision of contraception and consent must be obtained before providing women with their chosen method of contraception

Medical eligibility

Which contraceptive methods are safe to use after ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage?

Clinicians should refer to the method-specific recommendations for abortion which may be extrapolated for use after ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage



Women should be advised that additional contraceptive precautions (e.g. barrier methods/abstinence) are required for oral contraception if started 7 days or more





Services should have a range of pathways of care to local services for women who may require additional non-medical care and support

Record keeping and obtaining valid consent

D

Consent should clearly document the discussion and provision of contraception and consent must be obtained before provision of women with their chosen method of contraception

Medical eligibility

Which contraceptive methods are safe to use after GTD?

D

Women should be advised that most methods of contraception can be safely used after treatment for GTD and can be started immediately after uterine evacuation with the exception of intrauterine contraception.

D

IUCs should not be inserted in women with persistently elevated CG levels or aphant disease

D

IUCs should not normally be inserted until CG levels have normalized but may be considered on specific advice.





FSRH Guideline (January 2017, amended October 2020)

Contraception After Pregnancy

(Revision due by January 2022)

1. Introduction: Contraception After Pregnancy

1.1 Purpose and scope

This new guideline brings to better evidence and expert opinion on the provision of contraception to women after childbirth, abortion, ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage or gestational trophoblastic disease (GTD). It replaces the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) clinical guideline *Postnatal Sexual and Reproductive Health*.

This guideline is for use by: Clinicians, including sexual and reproductive health clinicians, obstetricians, gynaecologists, midwives, general practitioners (GPs), nurses and health visitors, involved in caring for women during and after pregnancy. Specialist settings where this guideline would be relevant include maternity services, abortion services, early pregnancy assessment units, general gynaecology services, integrated sexual health clinics and general practice.

It is hoped that this guideline will be implemented across all relevant services, in the UK and will promote a more collaborative and consistent approach to providing the best standard of contraceptive care to all women after pregnancy.

Key considerations of this guideline include:

- ▶ Women should be discussed provided
- ▶ Women should provide contraception
- ▶ Most contraceptive methods are most effective
- ▶ Most methods of contraception are safe to use
- ▶ Are there method-specific issues to consider
- ▶ Are there other issues to consider

This guideline was developed by the FSRH and endorsed by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), Royal College of Midwives (RCM), Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG).

1.2 Introduction and background – Why it is important to address contraception after pregnancy

1.2.1 Prevention of unintended pregnancies: a national health priority



A short interpregnancy interval (IPI) of less than 18 months increases the risks of complications, including preterm birth, low birth weight, stillbirth, and neonatal death. Currently, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a 4-month IPI after childbirth.⁷

A national health strategy across the UK highlights the importance of contraception for women after pregnancy, especially for women identified as being from vulnerable groups – young people who are at greater risks of future unintended pregnancy. Access to easy contraceptive counselling and the full range of contraceptive methods will enable women to plan the number of children they would like to have and the optimal spacing between them.

Pregnancy is a key reproductive event when women are in contact with health care services, creating an opportunity to discuss contraceptive choice and provide contraception to women motivated to avoid a future unintended pregnancy. Such a guideline provides a framework.¹⁴



1.4 Discussion and provision of contraception after pregnancy



Clinicians should ensure they are familiar with or refer to the current version of the KMEC, unless specifically stated. KMEC does not take account of multiple health conditions. Clinical judgement is required when making an assessment of a woman's medical eligibility, which should take into consideration her personal characteristics and other co-existing medical conditions. These evidence-based recommendations apply only to the safety of contraceptive use and do not indicate a best method for a woman nor do they take into account method efficacy which could be affected by drug interactions or absorption.

1.4.3 Effectiveness of contraceptive method

Women should be informed during pregnancy about the effectiveness of different contraceptives, including the superior effectiveness of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC), when choosing an appropriate method to use after



1.4.4 Information giving and counselling

All clinicians involved in the care of pregnant women should provide the opportunity to discuss contraception.

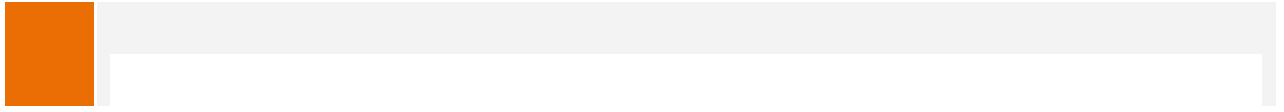
Whenever contraceptive counselling is provided, care should be taken to ensure



Information about contraception that is easily understood, unbiased and accurate should be made available to women in different languages and formats, including audio, visual, and other formats, as important as national reports on adult literacy – have estimated that a sizeable proportion of adults, not least in Kenya, have low levels of literacy – suggests that many women may not be able



1.4.6 Discussing women's contraceptive needs









2. Contraception After Childbirth

2.1 Discussion and provision of contraception after childbirth

2.1.1 When should contraception after childbirth be discussed/provided?

Maternity services (including services providing antenatal, intrapartum and postpartum care) should give women opportunities to discuss their fertility intentions, contraception and preconception planning.

Whenever contraceptive counselling is provided, care should be taken to ensure women do not feel under pressure to choose a method of contraception.

D

Effective contraception after childbirth should be initiated by both breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding women as soon as possible, as sexual activity and ovulation may resume very soon afterwards.

Maternity service providers should ensure that all women after pregnancy have access to the full range of contraceptives, including the most effective LARC methods, to start immediately after childbirth. This should not be limited to those women with conditions that may pose a significant health risk during pregnancy and vulnerable groups (including young people) at risk of a short interpregnancy interval (IPI) or an unintended pregnancy.

There is growing recognition in the UK that women's need for effective contraception



Women should be informed about the effectiveness of the different contraceptive methods, including the superior effectiveness of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC), when choosing an appropriate method to use after childbirth.

See Section 1.4.3

Click [here](#) to access a table which compares the percentage of women experiencing an unintended pregnancy during the first year of contraceptive use when the method is used 'typically' (which includes both incorrect and inconsistent use) or 'perfectly' (correct and consistent use-

D Clinicians should adopt a person-centred approach when providing women with contraceptive counselling.

Clinicians who are giving advice to women about contraception after childbirth should ensure that this information is timely, up-to-date and accurate.

Comprehensive, unbiased and accurate information on contraceptive methods postpartum should be made available in different languages and in a range of formats including audio-visual.

See Section 1.4.4

o n n o n p o n n p o

Contraceptive counselling should be made available to women in the antenatal period to enable them to choose the method they wish to use after childbirth.

Any contraceptive counselling (general or specialist) needs to be given in conjunction with easy access to contraception in the immediate postpartum period.

At our National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance¹ as previously recommended that contraception should be discussed with the first week after delivery advice about contraception after childbirth may be better discussed antenatally especially since any methods can be provided at the time of delivery - intrauterine contraception (IUC) or during the hospital stay⁴. Prior to childbirth women may have more time to think through their options than immediately after childbirth when the requirements of caring for a baby and recovering from delivery may take priority over contraceptive decisions, a n -

Evidence level 4

The effectiveness of postpartum contraceptive counselling has not yet been established^{4, 4,7}. One Cochrane review⁴ which identified six non-randomised controlled trials. Cochrane reviews of educational interventions reported that women in the intervention groups were more likely to use highly effective methods rather than methods which are least effective or no method compared to women who received standard counselling information. Another Cochrane review^{4,7} of ten Cochrane reviews evaluated the effectiveness of postpartum education on contraceptive use reported that all of these interventions led to fewer pregnancies or more contraceptive use. However the studies included in both reviews were of low to moderate quality and the reliability of the findings. Many of the studies are either from the UK or low-income countries where barriers to contraceptive use are likely to be different from the UK.

Evidence level 1

One international Cochrane review⁴ which included Edinburgh and Cape Town showed that specialist antenatal contraceptive counselling is no better than standard contraceptive advice. In this study women attending antenatal clinics were randomised to receive either specialist counselling or standard contraceptive advice. No significant differences were found between the two groups in the prevalence of contraceptive use or unintended pregnancies based on abortion rates at 1 year. However this study was conducted before the widespread availability of highly effective LARCs including the subdermal progestin only implant (IMP) or the levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system (LNG-IUS) and before women were offered immediate insertion of IUC after childbirth.

Evidence level 1

Recent evidence from the UK has shown that an antenatal discussion may be beneficial as it may identify women who wish to opt for insertion of LARC in the immediate postpartum period before discharge from hospital⁴. According to the UK survey of postpartum mothers^{4, 4} women would choose LARC immediately after delivery if this was available. However, in order to be able to choose LARC at this time women need to have made this decision before delivery and therefore should be made aware of their contraceptive options antenatally.

Evidence level 1

It is therefore important that any contraceptive counselling should be general or specialist be given in conjunction with easy access to contraception in the immediate postpartum period.

2.1.2 When can contraception after childbirth be initiated?

- D** The choice of contraceptive method should be initiated by 21 days after childbirth.
- D** A woman's chosen method of contraception can be initiated immediately after childbirth if desired and she is medically eligible.
- C** Women should be advised that intrauterine contraception (IUC) and progestogen-only implant (IMP) can be inserted immediately after delivery.





• Women who were to conceive a pregnancy should wait at least 1 month after childbirth - A retrospective cohort study



referrals to specialist contraceptive services e - co - unity. His should ideally be made antenatally if required so that a plan for contraception can be made before delivery and contraception can be initiated as soon as possible after childbirth -

2.1.5 Record keeping and obtaining valid consent

D Clinicians should clearly document the discussion and provision of contraception after childbirth. Valid consent must be obtained before providing women with their chosen method.

See [Section 1.4.7](#). Women who choose to have a sterilisation should have their decision clearly documented before they are admitted for delivery.

2.2 Medical eligibility

2.2.1 Which methods of contraception are safe to use after childbirth?

C Women should be advised that although contraception is not required in the first 21 days after childbirth, most methods can be safely initiated immediately, with the exception of combined hormonal contraception (CHC).

The current evidence-based UK Medical Eligibility Criteria (KMEC) that apply to breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding women after childbirth are outlined in [Table 3](#). There are some restrictions on the use of combined oral contraception (CHC) — including combined oral contraceptive pills (COC) combined contraceptive vaginal



Condition	Cu-IUD	LNG-IUS	IMP	DMPA	POP	CHC
History of high blood pressure during pregnancy						



of Contraception

- C** Women who breastfeed should be informed that available limited evidence indicates that LNG-EC has no adverse effects on breastfeeding or on their infants.
- D** Women who breastfeed should be advised not to breastfeed and to express and discard milk for a week after they have taken UPA-EC

LNG-EC or PA-EC can be used without restriction by women after childbirth whether they are breastfeeding or not. Women can be advised to continue to breastfeed after using LNG-EC as evidence shows no adverse effect of progestin on breastfeeding or infant outcomes. Evidence level 1

One recently published systematic review reported that limited direct and indirect evidence did not suggest any specific safety concerns regarding the use of LNG-EC or PA-EC in women who breastfeed. Evidence level 1

Progestin acetate PA is excreted in breast milk but the effect on infants has not been studied. The GDG recommends that women who breastfeed should not breastfeed for 7 days after the use of PA-EC as stated in the summary of Product Characteristics (PC) for ellaOne. Women who breastfeed are advised to express and discard the breast milk in order to maintain non-lactation. Evidence level 4

2.2.4 Is additional contraception required after initiation of a method after childbirth?

- Women should be advised that additional contraceptive precautions (e.g. barrier method/abstinence) are required if hormonal contraception is started 21 days or more after childbirth. Additional contraceptive precaution is not required if contraception is initiated immediately or within 21 days after childbirth.**

The GDG recommends no additional contraception is necessary if any contraceptive method is initiated before Day 1 after childbirth. However, if hormonal contraception is started 1 days or



Table 5: Requirements for abstinence or additional contraception when a method of contraception (which the woman is medically eligible to use) is initiated after childbirth

Methods of contraception the woman is medically eligible to use	Initiation <21 days after childbirth	Initiation ≥ 21 days after childbirth
	Number of days of additional contraceptive precautions required days	
Copper intrauterine device	None for insertion to 4 hours	None
Levonorgestrel IUD	Insertion between 4 hours and 4 weeks may not be appropriate. KMEC	





Further, one at seven weeks after childbirth there were no differences between the two groups in terms of infant growth as measured by weight, length and head circumference.

Evidence level 1

Women should be informed about the full range of safe alternative contraceptive methods they can use particularly during the first weeks after childbirth when the risks of E, S, Gest and the use of CHC methods may exacerbate the risks.

2.3.2 Can women who breastfeed effectively use lactational amenorrhoea method (LAM) as contraception?

C Women may be advised that, if they are less than 6 months postpartum, amenorrhoeic and fully breastfeeding, the lactational amenorrhoea method (LAM) is a highly effective method of contraception.

C Women using LAM should be advised that the risk of pregnancy is increased if the frequency of breastfeeding decreases (e.g. through stopping night feeds, starting or increasing supplementary feeding, use of dummies/pacifiers, expressing milk), when menstruation returns or when more than 6 months after childbirth.

The use of breastfeeding as contraception, known as the lactational amenorrhoea method (LAM), suppresses the resumption of ovarian activity and the return of menses after childbirth.⁷ Full breastfeeding includes exclusive when no other liquids or solids are given or almost exclusive when vitamins, water or juices, given infrequently, in addition to breastfeeds.

Women who are fully breastfeeding have reduced fertility and breastfeeding can be used to reduce the risk of an unintended pregnancy. However, when the frequency and duration of suckling decreases, ovarian activity may be restored and the likelihood of restarting periods increases.

Evidence level 1

Women who breastfeed and experience a bleed in the first months after childbirth have been shown to have a higher risk of pregnancy than those who remain amenorrhoeic.⁷ Therefore, for breastfeeding to be used as an effective contraceptive method, it is recommended that women must fully breastfeed exclusively.





• The insertion of IUC can take place as soon as the placenta is delivered at caesarean



The insertion of IUCD immediately after childbirth is associated with higher expulsion rates but also higher continuation rates – IUCD is postpartum regardless of IUCD type or mode of delivery.^{1,7}



In another C⁷



A retrospective cohort study¹ found no difference in removal rates for IMP due to vaginal bleeding between women who had IMP inserted immediately after childbirth with a course of delivery delayed – 1 week after childbirth or as an interval method after 1 week following childbirth or unrelated to a pregnancy event – the



2.4.4 Progestogen-only pills (POP)

C POP can be started at any time after childbirth, including immediately after delivery.

Evidence has shown that POP have minimal effects on coagulation factors, blood pressure or lipid levels and thus represent an appropriate contraceptive choice for women after childbirth who have no contraindications to their use. Evidence

POP can be initiated immediately after childbirth and before 14 days without the need for additional precautions. If started on Day 1 then additional contraception is necessary for 7 days.

2.4.5 Combined hormonal contraception (CHC)

C All women should undergo a risk assessment for VTE postnatally. CHC should not be used by women who have risk factors for venous thromboembolism (VTE) within 6 weeks of childbirth. These include immobility, transfusion at delivery, body mass index (BMI) ≥ 30 kg/m².





- Sterilisations performed immediately after childbirth and as an interval procedure are commonly performed using partner vasectomy and tubal occlusion. FSRH (2016) Collaborative review of sterilisation. CoE (2011) reported that postpartum partner vasectomy was one of the lowest failure rates of all sterilisation techniques with a 1-year failure rate of 0.1% per 100 procedures and a 1-year failure rate of 0.7% per





Dapra s are unsuitable until 4 weeks after childbirth when uterine involution is complete and discomfort has been resolved.¹⁷ A different size of dapra may be required for postpartum women who have used this method previously. Another method of contraception should be used from Day 1 until the woman is able to insert and remove a correctly fitted dapra.

Evidence level 4

2.4.8 Fertility awareness methods (FAM)

D Fertility awareness methods (FAM) can be used by women after childbirth. However, women should be advised that because FAM relies on the detection of the signs and symptoms of fertility and ovulation, its use may be difficult after childbirth and during breastfeeding.

Women should be advised that fertility awareness methods (FAM) should be used carefully in order to ensure maximum effectiveness. The effectiveness of FAM can be improved when a combination of indicators are used and are taught by trained FAM practitioners.¹⁸ High failure rates are associated with typical use. Refer to the FHM guideline *Fertility Awareness Methods* for further guidance.

Evidence level 4

During the first 4 weeks after childbirth, women who are not breastfeeding are unlikely to have sufficient ovarian function to produce detectable fertility signs or require FAM. At our tertiary level of pregnancy, show during the first 4 weeks following childbirth, women wishing to use a method of contraception during this time should be offered an alternative method. [See Section 2.3](#). Women who are not breastfeeding can rely on FAM as contraception from 4 weeks after childbirth as this is when ovarian function resumes and the fertility signs and/or ovulation can become detectable.

Women who are primarily breastfeeding are unlikely to have sufficient ovarian function to produce detectable fertility signs and/or ovulation during the first 6 months following childbirth. Women wishing to use a method of contraception during this time should be offered an alternative method. [See Section 2.3](#).

2.5 Useful links and support group: Contraception after childbirth

- ▶ [NHCC Contraception guide](#)
- ▶ [NHCC Pregnancy and baby](#)
- ▶ [The Family Planning Association \(FPA\)](#)



3. Contraception After Abortion

3.1 Discussion and provision of contraception after abortion

The clinical guidance and the recommendations in this section focus on the discussion and provision of contraception to women who have recently had an abortion and co-parents





B

Clinicians should be aware that insertion of intrauterine contraception (IUC) at the time of abortion is convenient and highly acceptable to women. This has been associated with high continuation rates and a reduced risk for another unintended pregnancy than when provision of IUC is delayed.

B

Clinicians should be aware that insertion of progestogen-only implants (IMP) at the time of abortion is convenient and highly acceptable to women. This has been associated with high continuation rates and a reduced risk for another unintended pregnancy than when provision of IMP is delayed.

See [Section 3.2](#)

Provision of highly effective contraceptive methods at the time of abortion has distinct advantages



Women who are unable to be provided with their chosen method of contraception should be informed about services where their chosen method can be accessed. A temporary (bridging) method should be offered until the chosen method can be initiated.

See Section 1.4.5



Observational studies have also found that the risk of having another abortion was statistically lower in women who used IUC after abortion compared to those who used oral contraceptives (OC). An odds ratio (OR) of 0.4 [confidence interval (CI) 0.1-1.4] was reported in one study¹ and an OR of 0.7 [CI 0.17-2.77] was reported in another study.^{4,7} In one study⁴ where women using IUC were compared to women using another method, the hazard ratio (HR) was 0.7 [CI 0.1-4.4]. Compared to women using short-acting methods of contraception, the HR of subsequent abortion for women using the Cu IUD and LNG IUD were found to be 0.4 [CI 0.1-1.4] and 0.7 [CI 0.1-4.4] respectively.

Observational studies^{1, 4, 4.7} have reported that women who choose to use IMP after abortion have also been shown to have a reduced risk of subsequent abortion. One RCT study¹ found that compared to women who used OC, the OR of women who used IMP after abortion having another abortion within 1 year was 0.4 [CI 0.1-1.4].

Observational studies^{1, 4, 4.7} have yielded inconsistent findings regarding the initiation of depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) immediately after abortion and the risk of subsequent abortion. For example, one observational study in the RCT¹



Table 6: UK Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (UKMEC) categories applicable to a woman after an abortion

Post-abortion	Cu-IUD	LNG-IUS	IMP	DMPA	POP	CHC
a First trimester						
b Second trimester						



Table 7: Requirements for abstinence or additional contraceptive precautions when a method of contraception (which the woman is medically eligible to use) is initiated after abortion

Methods of contraception the woman is medically eligible to use	Initiation <5 days after abortion	Initiation 5 day after abortion
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Primary a systematic review of 11 studies reported that IUCN insertion immediately after surgical abortion is not associated with an increased risk of adverse outcomes compared with use of other contraceptive methods or with no IUCN insertion after abortion. It also found no increased risk of adverse outcomes compared with IUCN insertion at times other than immediately after abortion.

Evidence level

IUCN expulsion rates were generally low were IUCN insertions performed after late first trimester surgical abortions compared with those done after early first trimester surgical abortions. Expulsion rates were also lower with IUCN insertions performed after second trimester surgical abortions compared with first trimester surgical abortions. More recent CoCs not included in either systematic review reacted to the same conclusion that immediate insertion of an IUCN after abortion is safe.

There is some evidence that women who choose an LNG IUD after surgical or medical abortion benefit from reduced menstrual blood loss. An CoC was compared between patterns of women who had Cu IUD or LNG IUD inserted immediately after surgical abortion found that LNG IUD users experienced a lower incidence of amenorrhoea and an increased number of spotting days throughout the



If women choose to delay the insertion of I. C. the return visit for insertion should be



Progestin-only contraception can be safely initiated at the time of administration of levonorgestrel as there has been a concern that co-administration of progestin-only contraception at the same time as levonorgestrel may reduce the efficacy of levonorgestrel as a progestin receptor modulator. One Cochrane review from Mexico and the UK included 4,712 women under 18 years of age who were randomized to receive either levonorgestrel or a progestin-only contraceptive pill before or after the abortion was completed. After start group showed no differences in success of the levonorgestrel abortion. The study found that 95% and 96% of women in the levonorgestrel and Afterstart groups respectively had surgery to complete the abortion. The mean days of bleeding was similar but significantly longer in the levonorgestrel than in the Afterstart group. The incidence of heavy bleeding was nearly identical in both groups. The study also found that quick start levonorgestrel increased patient satisfaction but found no evidence that it decreased unintended pregnancies in the long term.

A further randomized controlled equivalence trial from Sweden and the UK included 1,000 women under 18 years of age who were randomized to insertion of an IUD either before or after levonorgestrel. The study found no differences in success of the abortion or in the number of days of bleeding between the two groups.



The study also found that quick starting DMPA enhanced patient satisfaction and resulted in more women using the method in the short term at 1 month but no difference in use at 6 months

Evidence level 1

The study was designed and powered to examine needs for surgical intervention rather than on pregnancy weight loss. In addition, this unknown weight loss findings would be observed with use of the subcutaneous C for injection. *ayana Press* at *feprstone* since *ayana Press* is a lower dose preparation than the IM preparation. Nevertheless, the GDG recommends that women should be advised that administration of DMPA IM or C at the same time as *feprstone* may be associated with a small increase in the risk of failure of EMA. Women who wish to start DMPA at the time of *feprstone* should be advised of the importance of confirming success of the procedure according to local clinic protocols. Women should be reminded that scant or absent bleeding may be due to failed medical abortion rather than or on a method used. Under such circumstances, urgent medical review should be sought.

There is no evidence of an adverse effect of *feprstone* on the efficacy of oral contraception. Two studies^{1,71} that have examined the impact of the progestosterone receptor modulator *ulipristal acetate* (PA) which is licensed for EC have shown no effect on contraceptive action, number of days of *pmta* required to induce ovarian quiescence or *ostio cervical* *ucus* of *etera desoestre* containing progestin-only pill (POP) or combined oral contraceptive (COC) pill when commenced the day following administration of PA.

Women should be advised that scant or absent bleeding should not be attributed to a hormonal method of contraception that has been initiated, but that it may be due to failed medical abortion. Under such circumstances, urgent medical review for



3.3.3 Combined hormonal contraception (CHC)

B

Combined hormonal contraception (CHC) can be safely started immediately at any time after abortion.

A systematic review¹ which included three RCTs and four cohort studies reported that the use of COC, initiated after completion of surgical or medical abortion, is safe. Two RCTs^{17, 17i} have shown that immediate use of COC does not affect the success rate of the abortion procedure.

Evidence level¹

Limited evidence from RCT and observational studies suggests that the combined transvaginal RCT¹⁷ and the combined transdermal patch patch^{17, 17i} are also safe to commence, initiated after abortion.

The systematic review¹ also reported that immediate COC use after first trimester medical^{17, 17i, 17} or surgical abortion¹⁷⁻¹⁷ did not increase side effects or progestin vaginal bleeding compared with use of a placebo. Cu IUD non-hormonal contraceptive method or delayed COC use. In addition, COC after first trimester surgical abortion is associated with a statistically significant increase in coagulation parameters compared with intrauterine device IUD use¹⁷ however this is unlikely to be of clinical relevance¹.

3.3.4 Female sterilisation

D

Female sterilisation is a safe option for permanent contraception after abortion.

Women should be advised that some LARC methods are as, or more, effective than female sterilisation and may confer non-contraceptive benefits. However,



o on

The available evidence regarding risks of complication and failure associated with abortion at the time of sterilisation, is conflicting. The FHM COG guideline notes that although the addition of sterilisation to a procedure for abortion does not seem to increase the complication rate already associated with abortion, it has been argued that the complication rate associated with a combined procedure is higher than that associated with interval sterilisation. Studies comparing abortion combined with laparoscopic sterilisation versus laparoscopic sterilisation alone found no significant differences in the complication rate between the two procedures. Given that concurrent surgical abortion and laparoscopic tubal ligation are typically performed under general anaesthesia, it has been suggested that anaesthesia-related risks can be minimised by performing the two procedures together.

Evidence level 4

An early casenote review study that compared failure rates of laparoscopic sterilisation with non-laparoscopic methods found that the pregnancy rate was double if sterilisation was combined with abortion. However, a large case-control study failed to find any association between timing of the procedure and failure rate. The follow-up time was short and there were fewer suitable controls for the post-abortion cases.

Most studies reported no difference in re-sterilisation rates between women who underwent laparoscopic sterilisation at the same time as abortion predominantly first trimester and those who underwent interval sterilisation. Conversely, other studies have reported an increased rate of re-sterilisation when sterilisation was performed at the same time as the abortion.

One Chinese study in which women were randomised to either undergo a combined abortion with laparoscopic sterilisation or an abortion with sterilisation as an interval procedure at least two weeks later reported that 10% of women did not return for their interval sterilisation. It is important to note that non-attendance does not necessarily indicate re-sterilisation but does suggest that some women may have changed their minds when they were able to reconsider their decision outside the stressful circumstances of an unintended pregnancy. This further emphasises the need for careful counselling when sterilisation is requested in association with pregnancy.

Evidence level 4

Conclusions

There are no studies evaluating concurrent abortion and hysteroscopic tubal occlusion. The Essure contraceptive insert manufacturer instructions for use list both coitus and abortion of a second trimester pregnancy within the previous two weeks as contraindications for insertion. A recent narrative review on contraception after abortion noted that the procedure could be reasonably and safely accomplished before two weeks after the procedure, in a woman who is not on oral contraception and has had adequate endometrial preparation with POP, DMPA or the LNG-IUS.

Evidence level 4



Clinicians should ensure that consent from the woman to conduct female sterilisation at the same time as surgical abortion is taken and documented in advance of the abortion.

The GDG considered that consent to conduct a sterilisation at the same time as surgical abortion should be taken and documented in advance of the procedure. This requires careful consideration



Women should be advised that fertility awareness methods (FAM) should be used carefully in order to ensure maximum effectiveness. The effectiveness of FAM can be improved when a combination of indicators are used and are taught by trained FAM practitioners. High failure rates are associated with typical use. Refer to FHM to define *Fertility Awareness Methods* for further guidance.

Evidence level 4

Shortly after abortion signs of fertility may be disrupted and extreme caution is required. Any calendar-based methods should not be relied upon until one menstrual period has occurred.

3.4 Useful links and support group: Contraception after abortion

- ▶ [NHCC Contraception guide](#)
- ▶ [NHCC Pre-nancy and baby](#)
- ▶ [The Family Planning Association \(FPA\)](#)
- ▶ [British Pregnancy Advisory Service \(BPA\)](#)
- ▶ [Marie Stopes UK](#)



4. Contraception After Ectopic Pregnancy or Miscarriage

4.1 Discussion and provision of contraception after ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage

For clinical guidance relating to the diagnosis and management of ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage please refer to the COG Green-top guideline *Diagnosis and Management of Ectopic Pregnancy*¹ and the NICE guideline *Ectopic Pregnancy and Miscarriage*.⁴

The recommendations covered in this section apply only to diagnosed confirmed ectopic pregnancy - excludes pregnancy of unknown location and or miscarriage

4.1.1 When should contraception be discussed/provided?

Services providing care to women with ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage should give them opportunities to discuss their fertility intentions, contraception and preconception planning.

Whenever contraceptive counselling is provided, care should be taken to ensure









Table 8: Summary of UK Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (UKMEC)



A Cochrane review of trials and a systematic review of studies reported that the use of oral EC has not been associated with an increased risk of ectopic pregnancy after contraceptive failure. PAEC has been available in the UK since recently published post-abortion surveillance data reported four ectopic pregnancies out of an estimated 14 million users

Evidence level 1

4.2.3 Is additional contraception required after initiation of a method after ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage?

Women should be advised that additional contraceptive precautions (e.g. barrier methods/abstinence) are required if hormonal contraception is started 5 days or more after miscarriage. Additional contraceptive precaution is not required if contraception is initiated immediately or within 5 days of miscarriage.

Women should be advised that additional contraceptive precautions (e.g. barrier methods/abstinence) are required if hormonal contraception is started 5 days or more after surgical treatment or administration of methotrexate for ectopic



4.3 Specific issues

4.3.1 Does hormonal contraception have an effect on bleeding after ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage?

There is a lack of evidence on the effect of hormonal methods of contraception on bleeding after ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage. Extrapolation of evidence on induced abortion would suggest no adverse effect of combined hormonal contraception (CHC) use on uterine bleeding. See [Section 3.3.3](#).

4.3.2 What are the implications of recurrent miscarriage on contraceptive choice?

D Women who have had recurrent early miscarriage (REM) should be investigated for any underlying causes. However, investigations should not lead to a delay in initiation of a contraceptive method if the woman does not wish to become pregnant.

D Combined hormonal contraception (CHC) should be avoided by women with REM until antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) has been excluded.

If a woman has experienced recurrent miscarriage, she should be advised to avoid combined hormonal contraception (CHC) until antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) has been excluded.



Table 10: Summary of UK Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (UKMEC) categories applicable to a woman with positive antiphospholipid antibodies or known thrombogenic mutations

Condition	Cu-IUD	LNG-IUS	IMP	DMPA	POP	CHC
Positive antiphospholipid antibodies						4
Known thrombogenic mutations - Factor V Leiden prothrombin mutation, Protein C and antithrombin deficiencies						4

CHC combined oral contraceptive, Cu-IUD copper intrauterine device, DMPA depot medroxyprogesterone acetate progestin only injectable, IMP progestin only implant, LNG-IUS levonorgestrel intrauterine system, POP progestin only pill

Definition of UKMEC categories can be found [here](#).



Conclusion on Population

A review of six case-control studies estimated that the absolute risk of ectopic pregnancy in women using combined oral contraceptive COC ranges from 0.7 to 1.1 ectopic pregnancies per 1000 women-years. No study reported on other types of CHC except the combined vaginal contraceptive patch, was identified.

Evidence level 4

Conclusion on Population

Concerns have been raised that women using a low-dose progestin-only pill POP might be at higher risk of ectopic pregnancy than women using other methods of contraception. This is believed to be due to the inconsistent inhibition of ovulation and the reduction in cervical activity in the fallopian tubes that slows the passage of an ovum leading to an increased risk of tubal implantation.

Evidence level 4

The absolute risk of ectopic pregnancy in women using POP is significantly lower than women using condoms or no method. Ectopic pregnancy rates among POP users have been reported to range from about 0.1 to 0.2 ectopic pregnancies per 1000 women-years.

Conclusion on Population

The absolute risk of ectopic pregnancy when using the progestin-only implant IMP or progestin-only injectable POI is very low. A systematic review based on studies of IMP and studies of depot medroxyprogesterone acetate DMPA reported a very small number of ectopic pregnancies. In total, 4 studies of DMPA reported pregnancy rates ranged from 0.1 to 0.2.





on

C

Women should be informed that if pregnancy occurs after tubal occlusion, there is an increased risk of ectopic pregnancy and therefore the location of the pregnancy should be confirmed by ultrasound as soon as possible.



5. Contraception After Gestational Trophoblastic Disease (GTD)

5.1 Discussion and provision of contraception after GTD

For clinical guidance relating to the presentation, anaesthetic treatment and follow-up of gestational trophoblastic disease (GTD), including gestational trophoblastic neoplasia (GTN), please refer to the COG Green-top guideline *The Management of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease*



Women should be informed about the effectiveness of the different contraceptive methods, including the superior effectiveness of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC), when choosing an appropriate method to use after GTD.



D

After partial molar pregnancy, women should be advised to avoid pregnancy until two consecutive monthly hCG levels are normal.

D

Women who have had chemotherapy for GTD should be advised to avoid pregnancy for 1 year after treatment is complete.

After molar pregnancy hCG levels are monitored so that persistent GTD can be identified and treated. It is recommended that women avoid becoming pregnant during the period of hCG monitoring because it is not possible to distinguish between a hCG level that is rising because of a new pregnancy and that associated with



Services should have agreed pathways of care to local specialist contraceptive services [e.g. community sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services] for women with complex medical conditions or needs which may require specialist contraceptive advice.

Services should have agreed pathways of care to local services for women who may require additional non-medical care and support.

[See Section 1.4.8](#)

5.1.5 Record keeping and obtaining valid consent

D Clinicians should clearly document the discussion and provision of contraception. Valid consent must be obtained before providing women with their chosen method of contraception.

[See Section 1.4.7](#)

5.2 Medical eligibility

5.2.1 Which contraceptive methods are safe to use after GTD?

D



Table 11: Summary of UK Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (UKMEC) categories for women who have/had gestational trophoblastic disease

Gestational trophoblastic disease (GTD)	Cu-IUD	LNG-IUS	IMP	DMPA	POP	CHC
a Undetectable CG levels	1	1	1	1	1	1
b Decreased CG levels	1	1	1	1	1	1
c Persistently elevated CG levels or malignant disease	4	4	1	1	1	1

CHC combined oral contraception; Cu-IUD copper intrauterine device; DMPA depot medroxyprogesterone acetate progestin only injectable; CG human chorionic gonadotropin; IMP progestin only implant; LNG-IUS levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system; POP progestin only pill

Definition of UKMEC categories can be found [here](#)

5.2.2 Is emergency contraception (EC) safe to use after GTD?

	Emergency contraception (EC) is indicated if unprotected sexual intercourse (UPSI) takes place from 5 days after treatment for GTD.
D	Women should be advised that use of oral EC is safe after treatment for GTD. Insertion of copper intrauterine device (Cu-IUD) for EC may be considered.





IUC insertion at surgical evacuation where GTD is suspected but not confirmed should be made on an individual case basis based upon the individual woman's risk for GTD, clinical findings and her preference for IUC insertion at this time.

Neither KMEC¹ nor HOMECS^{1,7} has recommendations as to whether a woman with suspected GTD can have an IUC inserted at the time of surgical evacuation. Theoretically concerns are that IUC placement at surgical evacuation may be associated with a higher risk of uterine perforation and/or excessive bleeding if GTDs are indeed present.

In the absence of evidence for safety the GDG considers that IUC insertion at surgical evacuation where GTDs are suspected but not confirmed should be made on an individual case basis based upon clinical findings and the woman's preference for IUC insertion at this time.

5.3.2 Hormonal contraception

B Hormonal contraception can be started immediately after uterine evacuation for GTD.

In the 1970s a retrospective cohort study⁴ reported that CG levels reverted to normal more slowly and that there was a significantly increased risk of requiring chemotherapy for treatment of postmenopausal obstetric disease if COC was continued while CG levels remained elevated after evacuation of yolk sac for mole. On the basis of these data it was recommended that hormonal contraception should be avoided until CG levels returned to normal.¹

Evidence level

Two systematic reviews^{5,6} concluded that there was no clear evidence of an effect



o o r o p n n o n n

There is epidemiological evidence suggesting that bilateral salpingectomy may protect against development of high-grade serous ovarian cancer. It is postulated that this may be because serous epithelial cancers may originate in tubal epithelium. The COG advises that women should be carefully counselled for removal of fallopian tubes if they are competent and they are under ongoing pelvic surgery. This may be also relevant to women being sterilised after GTD.

5.3.4 Barrier methods

D Condoms (male and female) can be used by women after treatment for GTD.

Women who choose a diaphragm should be advised to wait at least 6 weeks after treatment for GTD because the required size of diaphragm may change as the uterus returns to normal size.

Condoms (male and female) can be used without restriction at any time by women who have had GTD.^{1,7} However, given the relatively high failure rates (percentage of women experiencing an unintended pregnancy within the first year of use) with typical use, they are considered one of the least effective methods.

The GDG recommends that since the size of diaphragm may change as the uterus involutes



5.4 Specific issues

5.4.1 Is there any method associated with a risk of GTD in subsequent pregnancies?

D

Clinicians should inform women that there is no evidence that the use of any contraceptive method after an episode of GTD increases the risk of GTD in a subsequent pregnancy.

The population risk of ovarian pregnancy is 1 in 10,000. It is more common in women under the age of 15 years and over the age of 40 years and varies according to ethnic group. After one ovarian pregnancy the risk of a repeat episode is about



Recommendations for Future Research





- 4 | https://www.rcog.org.uk/~/media/assets/documents/updates/updates_tcm_0-11111.pdf
- 4 | National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) - *Antenatal and Postnatal Mental Health: Clinical Management and Service Guidance*. <http://www.nice.org.uk/updates/CG14>
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Appendices

Appendix 1: FSRH Clinical Guideline Development Process

Who has developed the guideline?

This guideline is produced by the Clinical Effectiveness Unit CEU with support from the Clinical Effectiveness Committee CEC of the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare FSRH. The FSRH is a registered charitable organisation which funds the development of its own clinical guidelines. NHS Lothian is contracted to host the CEU in the Calders Centre and to provide the CEU's services using ring-fenced funding from the FSRH. No other external funding is received. Calders Centre supports the CEU in terms of accommodation, facilities, education, training and clinical advice for the members' enquiry service. As an organisation, NHS Lothian has no editorial influence over CEU guidelines, although staff members may be invited to join the CEU's multidisciplinary guideline development groups GDG in an individual professional capacity.

Development of the guideline was led by the secretariat CEU staff and involved the intended users of the guidelines: contraception providers and patient service user representatives as part of a multidisciplinary group. The scope of the guideline was informed by a scoping survey conducted among members of the FSRH and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists COG and among service users from three sexual and reproductive health services across the UK: Cardiff, Wales; London; England; and Edinburgh, Scotland.

The first draft of the guideline was produced based on the final scope of the guideline agreed by the GDG. The first draft of the guideline was reviewed.



Below is the list of contributors involved in the development of this clinical guideline
Guideline Development Group (GDG)

- ▶ Dr Aaron Cameron Director Clinical Effectiveness Unit



used to identify relevant guidelines produced by other organisations these guidelines were checked to identify missing evidence. No language restrictions were applied to the searches.





Considerations when making recommendations



Appendix 2: Clinical Guidelines, Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses Included in this Guideline

Clinical guideline

The following clinical guidelines were identified and used to inform the recommendations:



Contraceptive method-specific		
UK Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use	1	FH
WHO Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use	1	HO
WHO Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use MM	1	Centres for Disease Control and Prevention CDC
Intrauterine Contraception	1	FH
Progestin-only implants	4	FH
Progestin-only Injectable Contraception	4	FH
Progestin-only Pills	1	FH
Combined Hormonal Contraception	11	FH
Emergency Contraception	11	FH
Barrier Methods Contraception and STI Prevention	1	FH
Mate and Female Termination	4	FH
Fertility Awareness Methods	1	FH
Lactation Contraception	1	FH
Long-acting reversible Contraception update	4	NICE

Systematic review/ meta-analysis

The following systematic reviews and/or meta-analyses were identified and used to inform the recommendations. Additional studies identified are presented below based on the relevant pregnancy outcome sections to which they relate.

Contraception after childbirth (postpartum)



Breastfeeding



Resources

Resource 1: Risk factors for venous thromboembolism in pregnancy and the puerperium

able reproduced from Royal College of Obstetricians and





6. Emergency contraception is indicated for a woman who has had unprotected sexual intercourse after childbirth from:

- a 7 days
- b 4 days
- c 1 days
- d 2 days

7. Which statement is false?

- a Intrauterine contraception can be inserted within 12 hours of presentation of placental delivery
- b Intrauterine contraception can be inserted within 4 hours of an uncomplicated caesarean section
- c Intrauterine contraception cannot be inserted at the time of a caesarean section
- d Intrauterine contraception should not be inserted between 4 hours and 4 weeks post-delivery

8. A woman has unprotected sexual intercourse 7 days after an abortion. Which of the following statements is false?

- a All methods of emergency contraception are suitable
- b An emergency intrauterine device cannot be considered
- c If a subdermal implant, which started with levonorgestrel emergency contraception, 7 days of additional contraception is needed
- d If ulipristal acetate is given a woman should wait 7 days before starting a hormonal method of contraception

9. Post-ectopic pregnancy, which statement is true?

- a Women should be advised that intrauterine contraception is unsuitable
- b Only anovulatory methods of contraception should be recommended
- c If methotrexate is used pregnancy should be avoided for at least 6 months post-treatment
- d Contraception can be commenced on the day of methotrexate administration

10. With gestational trophoblastic disease (GTD), which statement is false?

- a After complete molar pregnancy for one woman develop GTD need chemotherapy
- b After partial molar pregnancy for one woman develop GTD need chemotherapy
- c Intrauterine contraception is unsuitable while human chorionic gonadotropin is still detectable



Auditable Outcomes

The following auditable outcomes have been suggested by the Faculty of Health Care Standards Committee

Auditable outcome	Target
Postnatal contraception	
Percentage of postnatal women who are given information about and offered a choice of appropriate contraceptive methods within 7 days of delivery	7
Percentage of postnatal women who have chosen a LARC method who are offered a birth control method when immediate access to their chosen method is not possible	7
Percentage of postnatal women chosen LARC who are provided with their chosen method before discharge from hospital	
Abortion	
Percentage of women who request an abortion who discuss contraception with a health care practitioner and are offered a choice of appropriate contraceptive methods before discharge	7
Percentage of women availing an abortion who receive their chosen method at the time of abortion	7
Ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage	
Percentage of women with ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage who are given an opportunity to discuss their fertility intentions, contraception and preconceptual counselling by their provider	7
Percentage of women with ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage who are given information about and offered a choice of appropriate contraceptive methods within 7 days of treatment	7
Gestational trophoblastic disease (GTD)	
Percentage of women availing GTD who are advised to avoid subsequent pregnancy until GTD is completely resolved	7
Percentage of women availing GTD who are given information about and offered a choice of appropriate contraceptive methods within 7 days of uterine evacuation	7
Adapted from NICE Contraception Quality Standards	



Comments and Feedback on Published Guideline

All comments on this published guideline can be sent directly to the Clinical Effectiveness Unit, CE of the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) via the FSRH website www.fsrh.org - or -

The CE will not respond individually to all feedback - However the CE will review all comments and provide an anonymised summary of comments and responses which are reviewed by the Clinical Effectiveness Committee and any necessary amendments made subsequently.

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