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Contraceptive Best Practices: Complex Adolescent Care



Sign-in code





Contraceptive Best Practices: Complex Adolescent Care

Nishant Shah, MD, MPH (*he/him*)





Beyond the Pill

A program of the
Bixby Center for Global
Reproductive Health at the
University of California,
San Francisco (UCSF)
School of Medicine

beyondthepill.ucsf.edu



Planning committee and disclosures

Speakers:

- **Nishant Shah, MD, MPH**, has the following disclosure:
 - Organon Nexplanon trainer*

Planning committee:

- **Cynthia Harper, PhD** – no disclosures
- **Nishant Shah, MD, MPH** – disclosure*
- **Connie Folse, MPH** – no disclosures
- **Stephanie Andaya, CCMA** – no disclosures
- **Suzan Goodman, MD, MPH** – no disclosures
- **Erica Somerson, MSc** – no disclosures

Training developed by UCSF,
funded by foundations.

We will be discussing off-label
indications.

Expert Reviewers

Andrea Shore, MPH

Senior Vice President of Programs, School-Based Health Alliance

Lela Bachrach, MD, MS

*Health Sciences Clinical Professor, University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
Department of Pediatrics*

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*Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
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Objectives

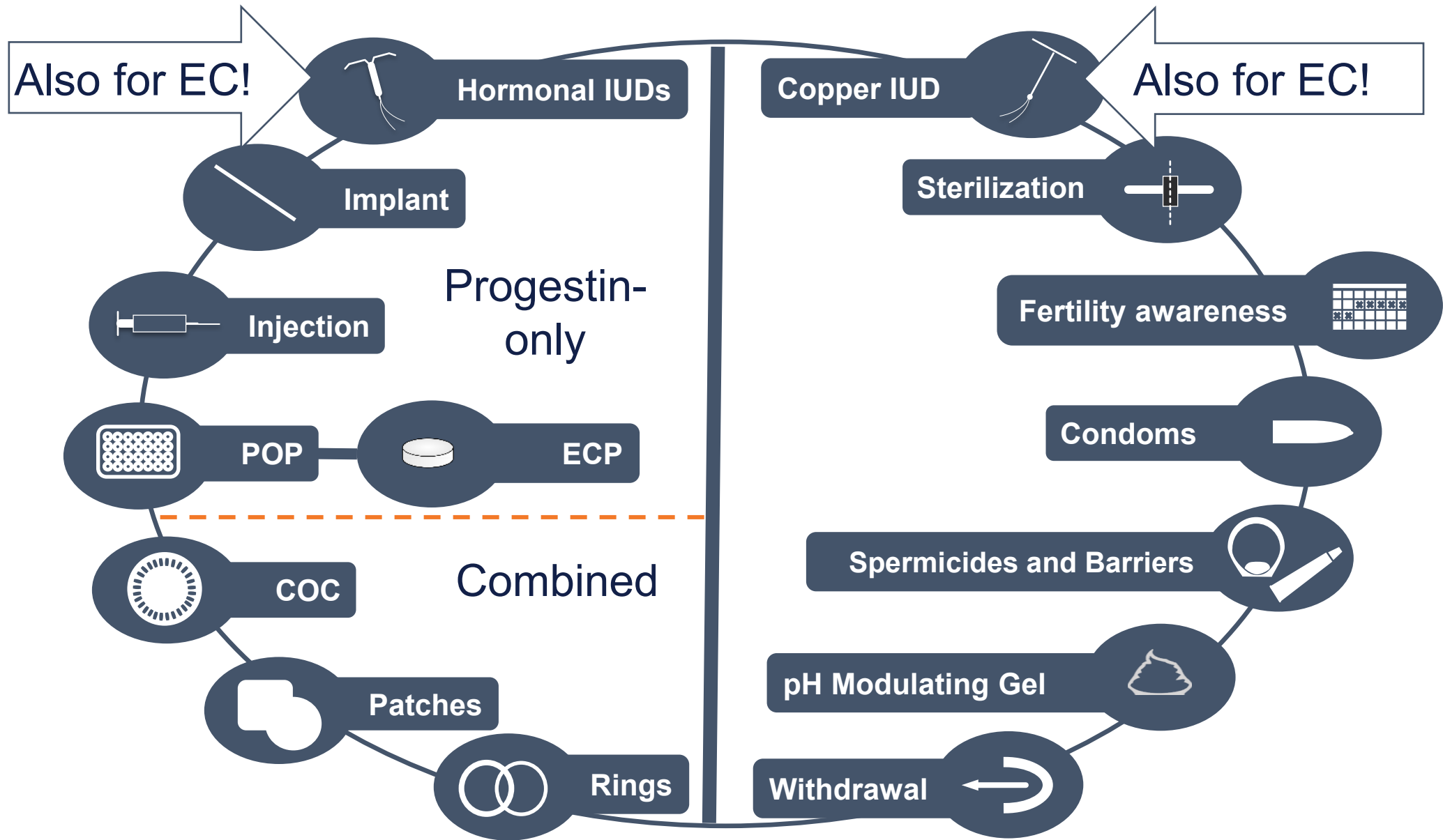
Objective 1 Identify best practices regarding patient-centered provision of contraception for adolescent populations

Objective 2 Review updated evidence for common contraceptive questions

Objective 3 List two CDC resources to help guide the provision of evidence-based care

Where do *you* start with patients?





Shared Decision-Making



Help the youth integrate clinical information into their personal perspective to choose a method...

Based on *their* values, goals, preferences

References

Dehlendorf, *et al.* *Contraception*. 2017

Geist, *et al.* *Contraception*. 2019



Shared Decision- Making



References

Dehlendorf, *et al. Contraception*. 2017

Geist, *et al. Contraception*. 2019

Patient-centered
contraceptive
counseling
improves...



Contraceptive
knowledge



Patient
experience



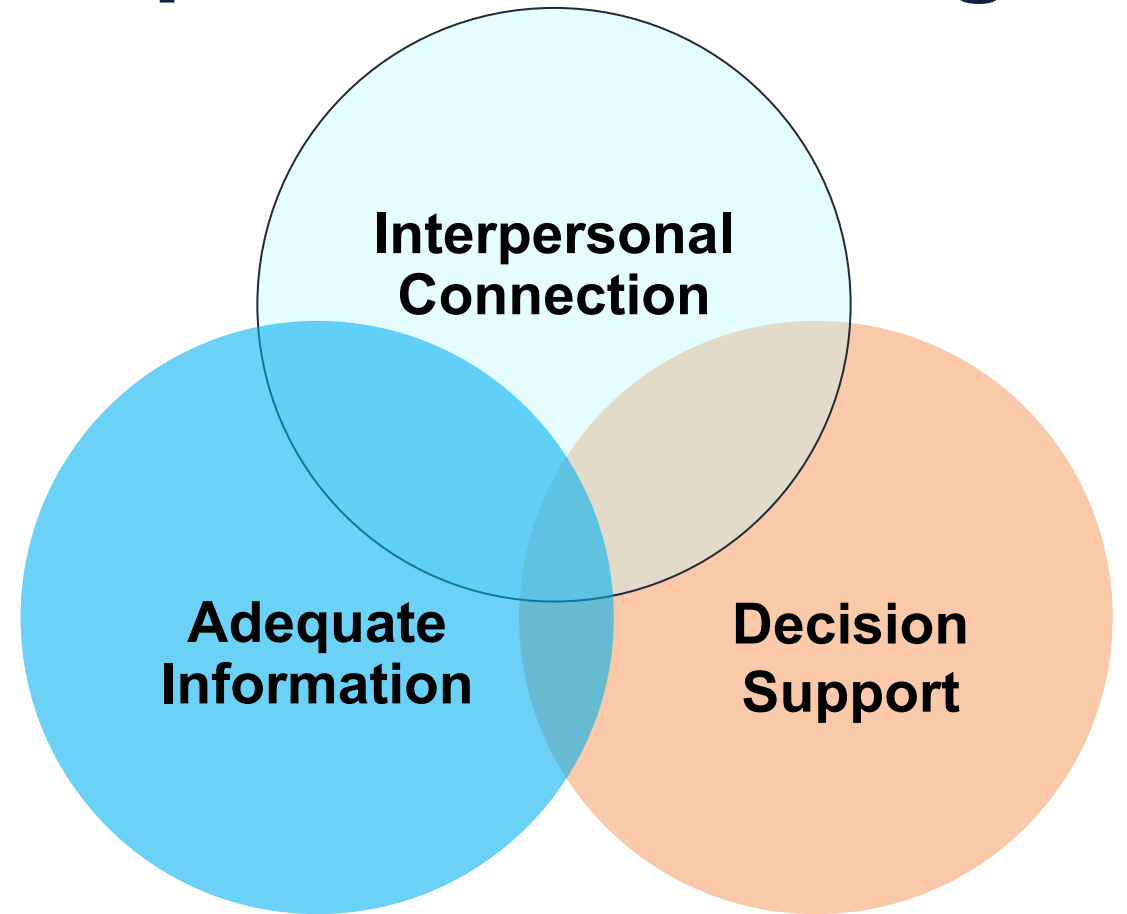
Contraceptive
satisfaction and
continuation

References

Chen, 2019; Dehlendorf, 2019
Pazol, 2018; Downey, 2017
Dehlendorf, 2016;
Weisman, 2002

Person-Centered Contraceptive Counseling

- Center the patient's values and priorities
- Consider medical history
- Discuss side effects, risks, and benefits
- Use shared decision-making to ensure that contraceptive counseling is focused on individual patient priorities



References

Edelman A, et al. Up to Date, 2020

Dehlendorf, et al. *Contraception*, 2021

Respect Diverse Priorities, Concerns, Experiences

- Control over method
- Personal and community experiences
- Desire for non-contraceptive benefits
- Route and/or frequency of administration
- Effect on breast/chest feeding
- Concerns about side effects
- Convenience
- Return to fertility
- Efficacy
- Privacy*

BIRTH CONTROL: WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Look inside to learn about your options.



Privacy

Start +
Stop

Side
Effects

Bleeding

Effectiveness

Fertility

EC

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO ME ABOUT MY BIRTH CONTROL?

You might already know what's important right now, or not, and what's important to you may change over time. These common questions about birth control can help you find a method that works for you.

Go to Bedsider.org for details on all the methods, how to get them, and how to use them.



PRIVACY

CAN ANYONE TELL IF I'M USING BIRTH CONTROL?

- Some birth control methods are easier to keep private than others.
- Think about who you want to keep your birth control private from and how they might discover it.

START + STOP

CAN I START & STOP BIRTH CONTROL ON MY OWN?

- Some birth control methods require a health care provider to start or stop, others don't.
- Think about how that would work for you.

SIDE EFFECTS

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIRTH CONTROL?

- Many common side effects are from birth control hormones.
- Think about what side effects are okay for you.

BLEEDING

HOW WILL BIRTH CONTROL CHANGE MY PERIOD?

- Some birth control methods can change how much bleeding you have or how often. These changes are safe.
- Think about what bleeding changes would be okay for you.

EFFECTIVENESS

HOW WELL DOES BIRTH CONTROL WORK?

- Some birth control methods are better than others at preventing pregnancy.
- Think about how important it is to you to prevent pregnancy right now.

FERTILITY

HOW SOON CAN I GET PREGNANT AFTER STOPPING BIRTH CONTROL?

- After stopping birth control, your chance of getting pregnant returns to whatever is normal for you, but it's not immediate with all methods.
- Think about if you want to be pregnant and when that might be.

EC

WHAT IS EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC)?

- Emergency contraception (EC) pills and some IUDs can prevent pregnancy when used up to 5 days after sex.
- Think about if you need it now or in the future.

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WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIRTH CONTROL?

Most common side effects are from birth control hormones.

No Hormones



Condom Internal Condom Fertility Awareness Pulling Out Copper IUD

May cause heavier bleeding & cramping.

No hormones means these methods won't cause hormone-related side effects.

Some people experience side effects from birth control, others don't.

Progestin Hormones



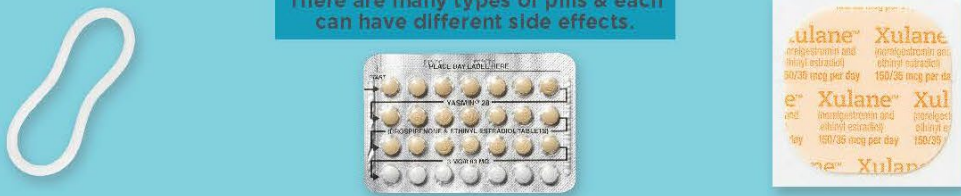
Hormonal IUD Mini-Pill Implant Shot

May cause weight gain for some.

Common side effects include lighter, irregular periods, bloating, mood changes, and reduced sex drive.*

Talk to a health care provider if you have side effects you don't like. They may be able to help.

Progestin & Estrogen Hormones



Ring Pill Patch

There are many types of pills & each can have different side effects.

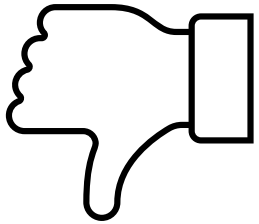
Common side effects include lighter, more regular periods, breast tenderness, nausea, vomiting, and headaches.*

Not every method is a good match for everyone. Ask a health care provider about the possible risks and benefits for you.

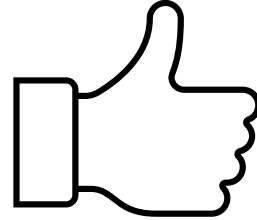
*These are not all the possible side effects for everyone, go to [Bedsider.org](https://www.bedsider.org) or talk with a health care provider to learn more.

Will birth control make me gain weight?

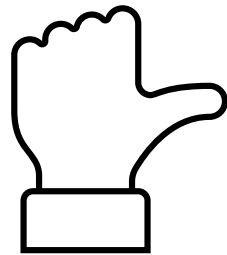
No



Yes



idk

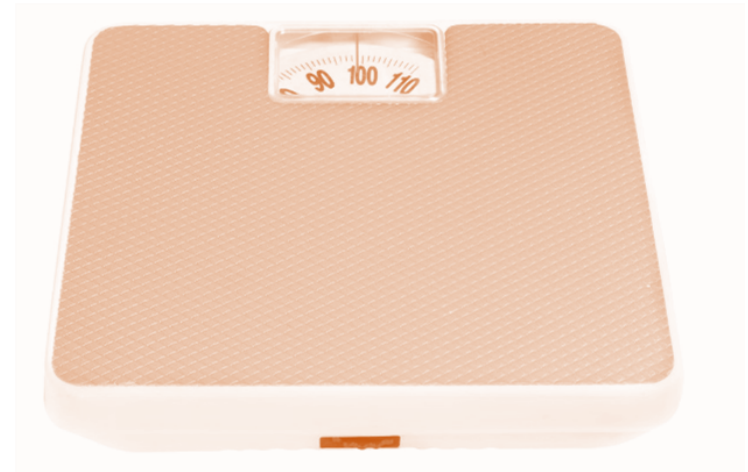


Birth Control and Weight Gain

- No causal association for weight gain for combined hormonal contraception.
- Little evidence of weight gain with progestin-only contraception (DMPA the exception).
 - Overall, the quality of data is low

References

Gallo et al., *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*, 2014
Lopez, et al. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*, 2016
Silva Dos Santos, et al. *Braz J Med Biol Res*, 2018
Vickery, et al., *Contraception*, 2013



DMPA and weight changes



- More consistent evidence of weight gain for DMPA.
- DMPA may contribute to **increases** in body fat and **decreases** in lean body mass.
- Increased appetite and eating patterns do not sufficiently explain weight gain.

References

Gallo et al., *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*, 2014

Lopez, et al. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*, 2016

Silva Dos Santos, et al. *Braz J Med Biol Res*, 2018

Vickery, et al., *Contraception*, 2013

DMPA and Bone Mineral Density (BMD)

- Many organizations support both short- and long-term DMPA safety (ACOG, SAHM, CDC, WHO)
- Offer adolescents a range of options, including methods that do not affect BMD
 - Use **shared decision-making** to review risks and benefits
- Evidence demonstrates **no** need to limit the duration of DMPA use
 - Losses in BMD are temporary
 - Limited data suggest that DMPA shows no increase in the short- or long-term risk of fracture

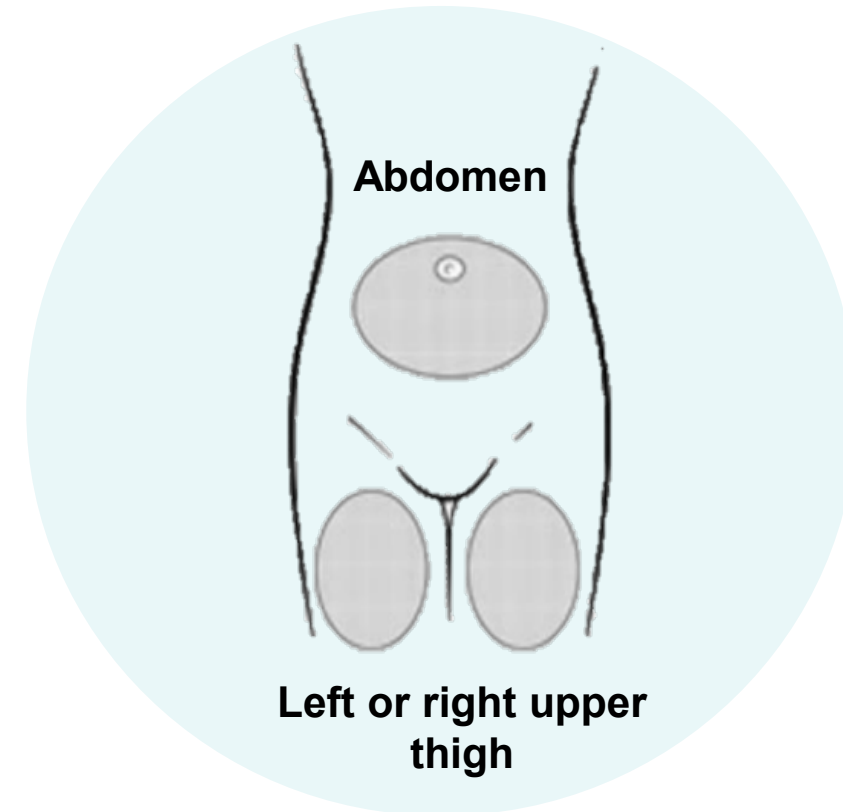
References

Kaunitz - Up to Date, 2022

ACOG , Committee Opinion Number 602 2023

Subcutaneous DMPA (DMPA-SQ)

- Can prescribe/teach via telemedicine
- May improve continuation, access, autonomy
 - One study showed 15% increased continuation
 - 37% of patients showed interest in SQ DMPA
 - 21% successfully initiated via telehealth
- Most SQ users:
 - Found self-admin very or somewhat easy (97%)
 - would recommend to a friend (87%)



References

- Comfort et al. *Contraception* 2023.
Katz et al. *Contraception* 2020
Kohn et al. *Contraception* 2018
Kennedy et al. *BMJ Glob Health* 2019

New OTC Progestin-Only Pill

- “Opill® ” 0.075mg oral Norgestrel tablet
- Typical use pregnancy rate: **7%**
- Estimated cost without insurance - \$15 - \$20/pack
 - Cost-assistance program available for uninsured users at or below 200% federal poverty level



Image credit: Power to Decide

References

Glasier, et al. *Contraception*, 2022

Opill FDA Label, 2017

Guidance for Contraceptive Care

US SPR

Selected Practice Recommendations
for Contraceptive Use, 2016

2016

How to use for
health care workers

US MEC

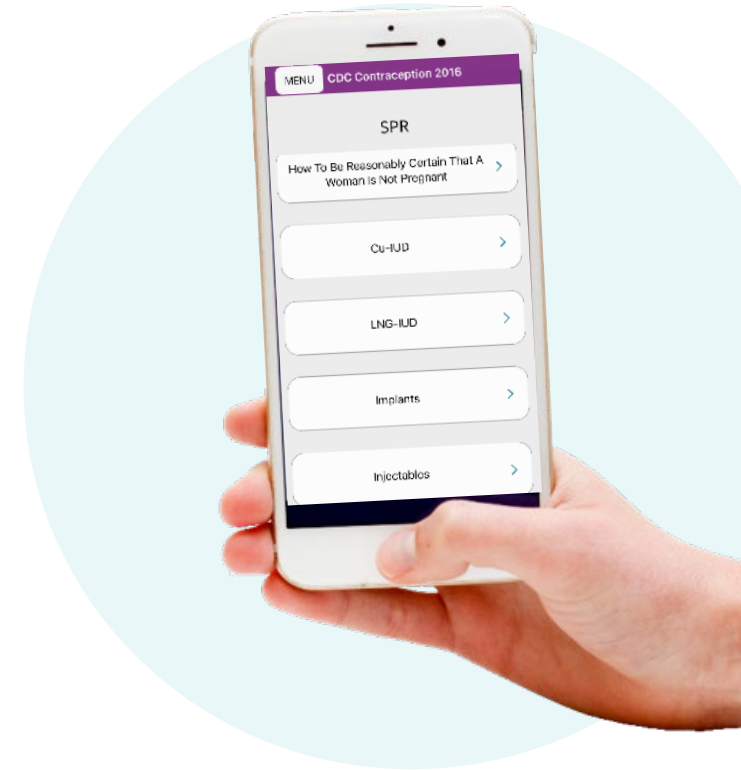
US Medical Eligibility Criteria
for Contraceptive Use, 2016

2016/2020

Who can safely
use a method?

US SPR

- Special considerations – explains recommendations in MEC
- When to start / Quickstart
- How long to use backup
- Missed or late doses
- Management of unscheduled/prolonged bleeding
- Guidance around EC provision



References

US SPR, 2016

Case Study: Monica (*she/her*)

16 years old, *she/her*

- Monica walks into clinic asking for “Plan B”
- Had unprotected sex 3 days ago
- BMI 31
- No medical conditions

Is LNG-ECP Monica’s only option?



Emergency Contraception (EC)

Unprotected /
Under-protected intercourse

Additional option to prevent pregnancy

Method use error /
Method failure




Delays in EC access increase
pregnancy risk

Sexual assault /
Non-consensual sex

Those experiencing sexual assault need
EC ASAP without interference

WHAT IS EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC)?

EC is birth control to use after sex to prevent pregnancy before it starts.

Types of EC	When can I use EC?	How do I get EC?	What about next time?
 <p>Over-the-counter EC pills</p>	<p>ASAP works best within 3 days but may work up to 5 days</p> <p>May be less effective over 165 pounds.</p>	<p>No prescription needed</p> <p>Find it at a pharmacy, clinic, or online.</p>	<p>Take it every time you need EC</p> <p>You can get extra EC for next time.</p>
 <p>Prescription EC pills</p>	<p>ASAP but can work up to 5 days</p> <p>Most effective EC pill. May be less effective over 195 pounds.</p>	<p>Need a prescription</p> <p>Talk to a health care provider online or in person.</p>	<p>Take it every time you need EC</p> <p>Ask about a refill so you can have it for next time.</p>
 <p>IUDs</p>	<p>Anytime up to 5 days</p> <p>Nearly 100% effective for any weight.</p>	<p>Visit a health care provider to have an IUD placed</p> <p>Say it's for EC so you are scheduled quickly.</p>	<p>Keeps working as birth control</p> <p>You can have it removed at any time.</p>

- Chart proven to increase youth awareness of EC options and how to access them

References

Harper et al. *J Adolesc Health*, 2023

Emergency Contraception Pills

- *When it's available*, UPA should be the first-line EC pill option for all patients.
- UPA is more effective than LNG ECP, *regardless of body size*, because it works closer to the time of ovulation.

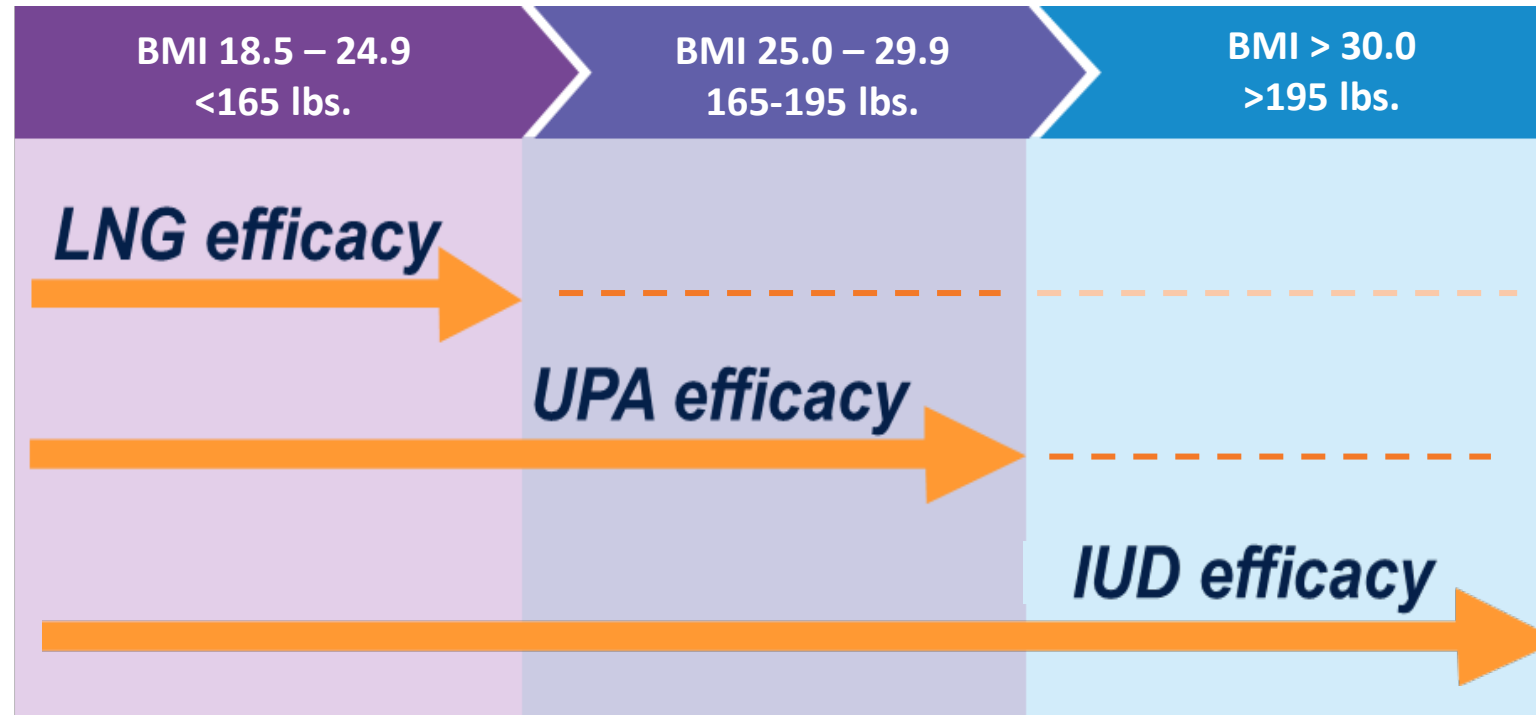
Offer advance prescription or provision of UPA or LNG ECP.

References

Castleberry, et al. *Contraception*, 2020

Shigesato, et al. *Contraception*, 2018

ECP May Lose Efficacy with Increased BMI

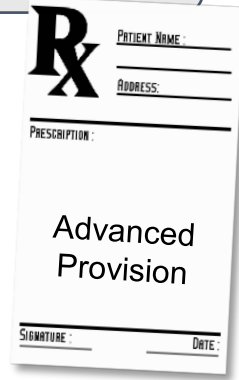


IUDs nearly 100% effective for all patients

References

- ASEC, 2022
- Festin, et al. *Contraception*. 2017
- Glasier, et al. *Contraception*, 2011
- Turok, et al. *NEJM*. 2021

EC Practices to Improve Access



References

Pagano, et al. *Women's Health Issues*, 2021

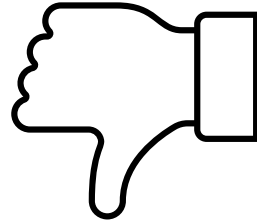
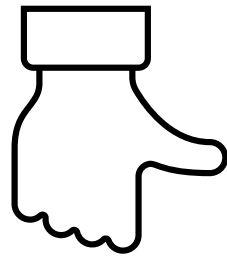
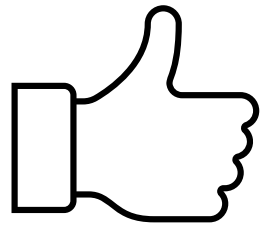
Case Study: Monica (*she/her*)

- Wants UPA
- Asks about starting the patch

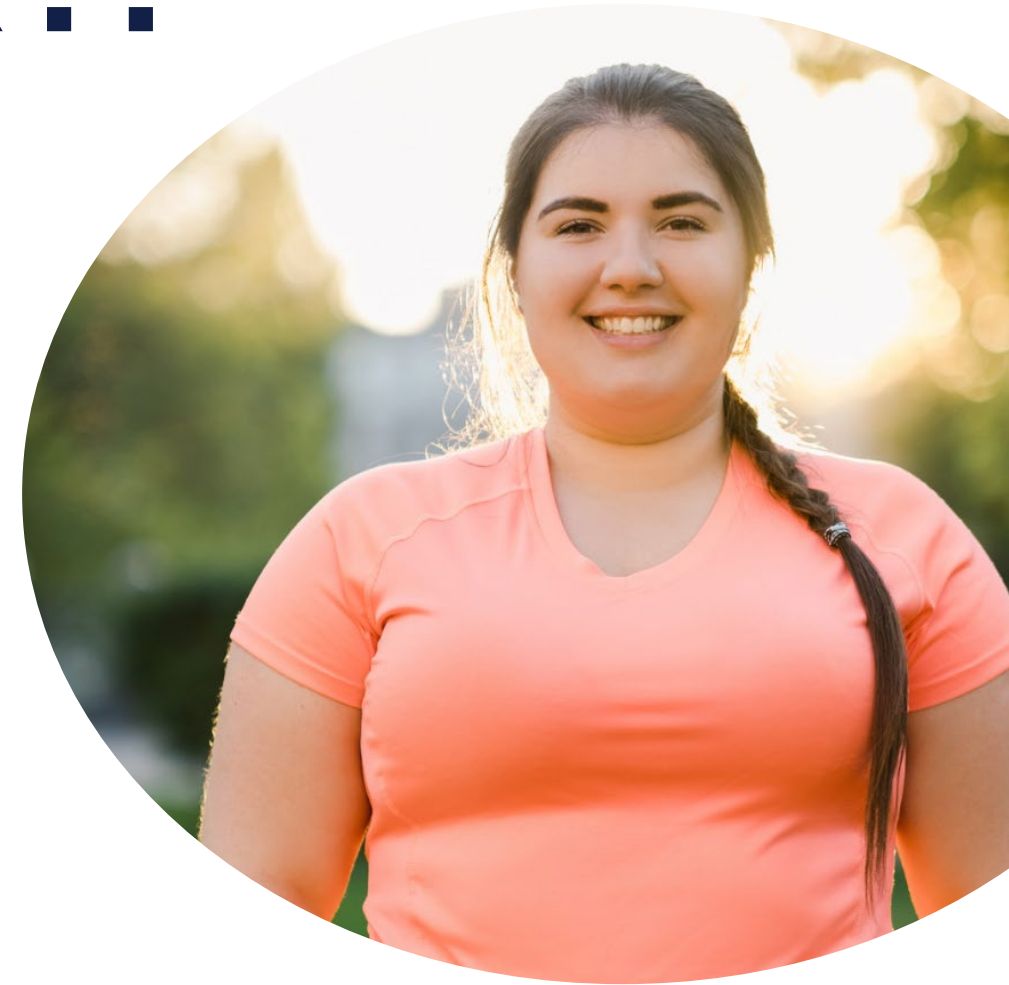


What do you think?!

Would you feel comfortable prescribing the patch to Monica?



1. Hormonal contraception after UPA
2. Safety? Efficacy? of patch for Monica



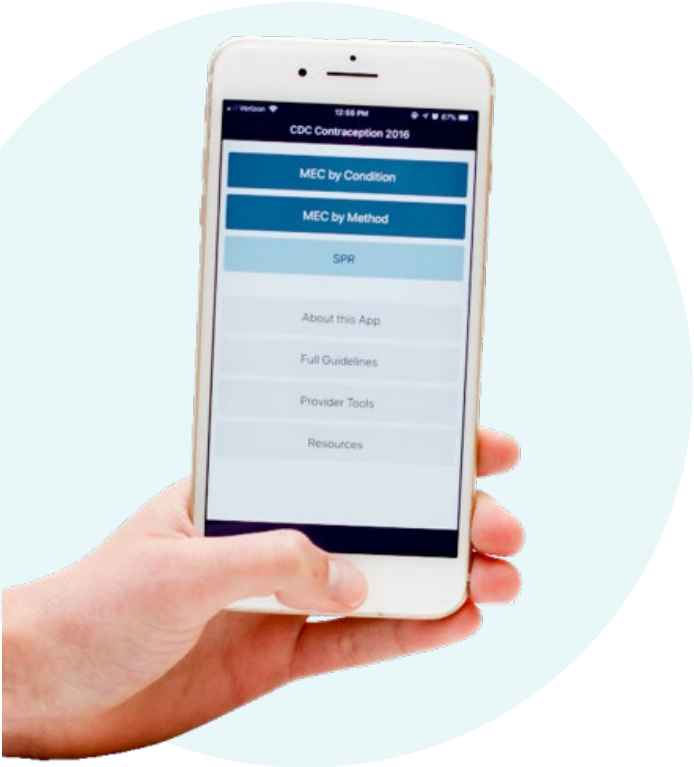
UPA and initiation of hormonal contraception

- Because subsequent administration of progestin-containing contraception can reduce the effectiveness of UPA in delaying ovulation, **patients should be counseled to delay initiation of hormonal contraception for 5 days.**
- Use back-up method for additional 7 days

References

Salcedo, et al. *Contraception*, 2023

CDC Medical Eligibility Criteria



Search: "CDC Contraception"

CDC Medical Eligibility for Initiating Contraception	
Method can be used without restriction	1
Advantages generally outweigh risks	2
Method not recommended unless more appropriate methods not acceptable	3
Absolute contraindication, avoid use	4

Safety of Contraception

US Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use

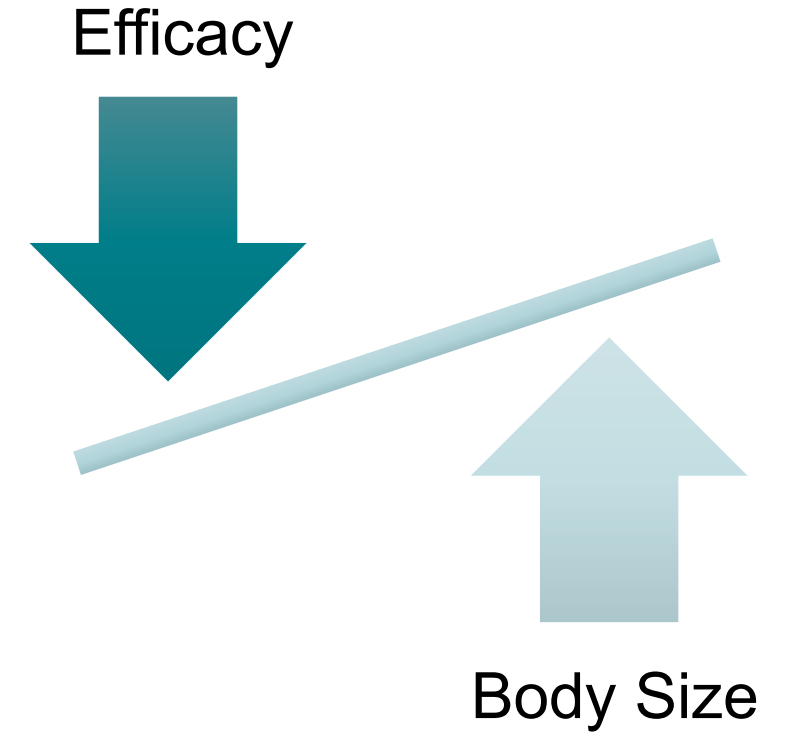
Condition		Copper IUD	LNG-IUS	Implant	DMPA	POP	Pill, patch, ring
Obesity	BMI > 30 kg/m ²	1	1	1	1	1	2
	Menarche to <18 years and BMI > 30 kg/m ²	1	1	1	2	1	2

References

Centers for Disease Control. *MMWR*. 2016

Patches: BMI and Efficacy

- In Phase 3 clinical trials for the ethinyl estradiol/levonorgestrel patch (EE/LNG), effectiveness trended downward as body size increased



References

Edelman A, et al. Counseling for Females with Obesity. Up to Date, 2020

Nelson A, et al. *Contraception*, 2021

Contraindications – It's all relative (BMI ≥ 30)

	Xulane® /Zafemy®	Twirla®
FDA label	Contraindication for BMI ≥ 30 Why? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased VTE risk	Contraindication for BMI ≥ 30 Why? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased VTE risk• Reduced efficacy
MEC	2	2
VTE Risk	Increased, but still low Not a reason to restrict use	Increased, but still low - <i>comparable to COCs</i> Not a reason to restrict use

Body size alone is not a reason to restrict access to *any* method of contraception.

A small risk times a small risk is still a small risk.

CHC Contraindications (MEC 4)

CDC Medical Eligibility for Initiating Contraception

Absolute contraindication, avoid use

4

- Clotting disorders
 - History of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism
- Headaches with focal neurologic symptoms
 - Example: migraine with aura
- Uncontrolled hypertension
- Ischemic heart disease
- Active liver disease



Reference

Centers for Disease Control.
MMWR. 2016

Shared Decision-Making with Monica...

- **Monica:** That sounds scary. Is it really ok for me to use the patch? Should I use something else?
- **Provider:**
 - Even though the risk is *greater*, it doesn't mean that it's a *big* risk. It is still a small risk. But I can't decide for you how important that small increase in risk is for *you*.
 - What I can tell is that you have the right to choose any method of contraception that is safe for you to use, and that the patch falls in that category.

Monica

- Monica will take UPA today and wait 5 days to start the patch
- She plans to use a back-up method for 7 days after starting the patch
- Takes condoms for pregnancy and STI prevention



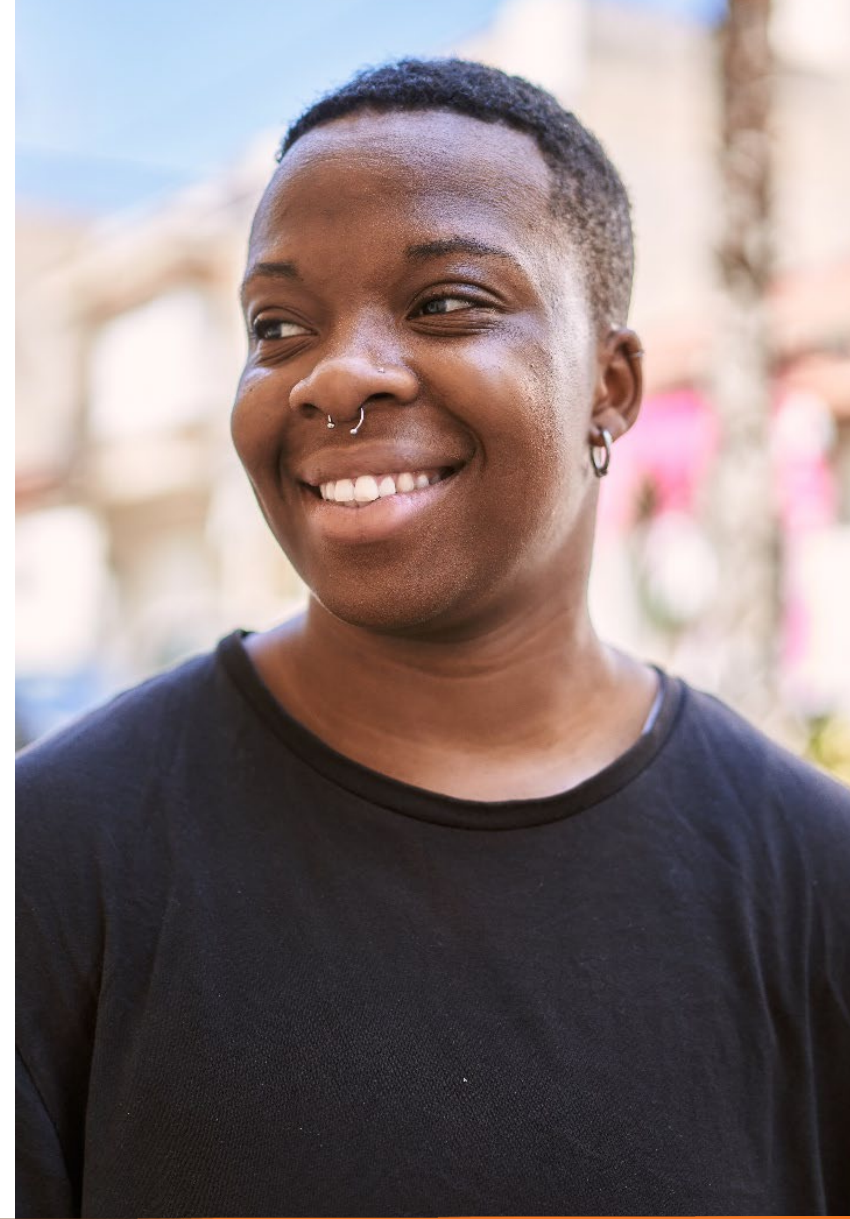
Contraception for Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth



Kyle (he/him)

18 years old

- Transmasculine
- Had unprotected sex 3 days ago
- In clinic for STI testing



Language is powerful

Using the correct name and pronouns in even just one setting for transgender and gender expansive youth led to:

- Fewer depressive symptoms
- Decrease in suicidal ideation
- Decrease in suicidal behavior ... by 56%!



“We ask all our patients about their name and pronouns so everyone feels safe and welcome here.”

References

Russell, et al. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 2018

Moseson, et al. *Obstet Gynecol*, 2020

CDC – STI Treatment Guidelines, 2021

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
MMWR

Recommendations and Reports / Vol. 70 / No. 4

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

July 23, 2021

Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021

STI Treatment Guide Mobile App

More Comprehensive
More Integrated
More Features

Download CDC's free app for iPhone and Android devices.

**What else could we
offer Kyle?**



Provider assumptions about transgender & gender-expansive patients negatively impact care & comfort

Including assumptions about:

- Sexual partners and behaviors
- Need/desire for contraception
- Desire for future childbearing
- Desire to/stage of gender-affirming care (or “transition”)
- Use of gender-affirming therapy and/or surgery

References

Bonnington et al. *Contraception*, 2020

Krempasky, et al. *AJOG*, 2019

Light A, *Contraception*, 2018

Taking an Inclusive Sexual History – the Ps

- **Pronouns** → He/him
- **Parts** → Ovaries, Uterus
- **Partners** → Sperm-producing
- **Practices (& Prevention)** → P
- **Pregnancy (Practices & Intention)** →

“I talk to all of my patients about sex to help them get the care they need.”

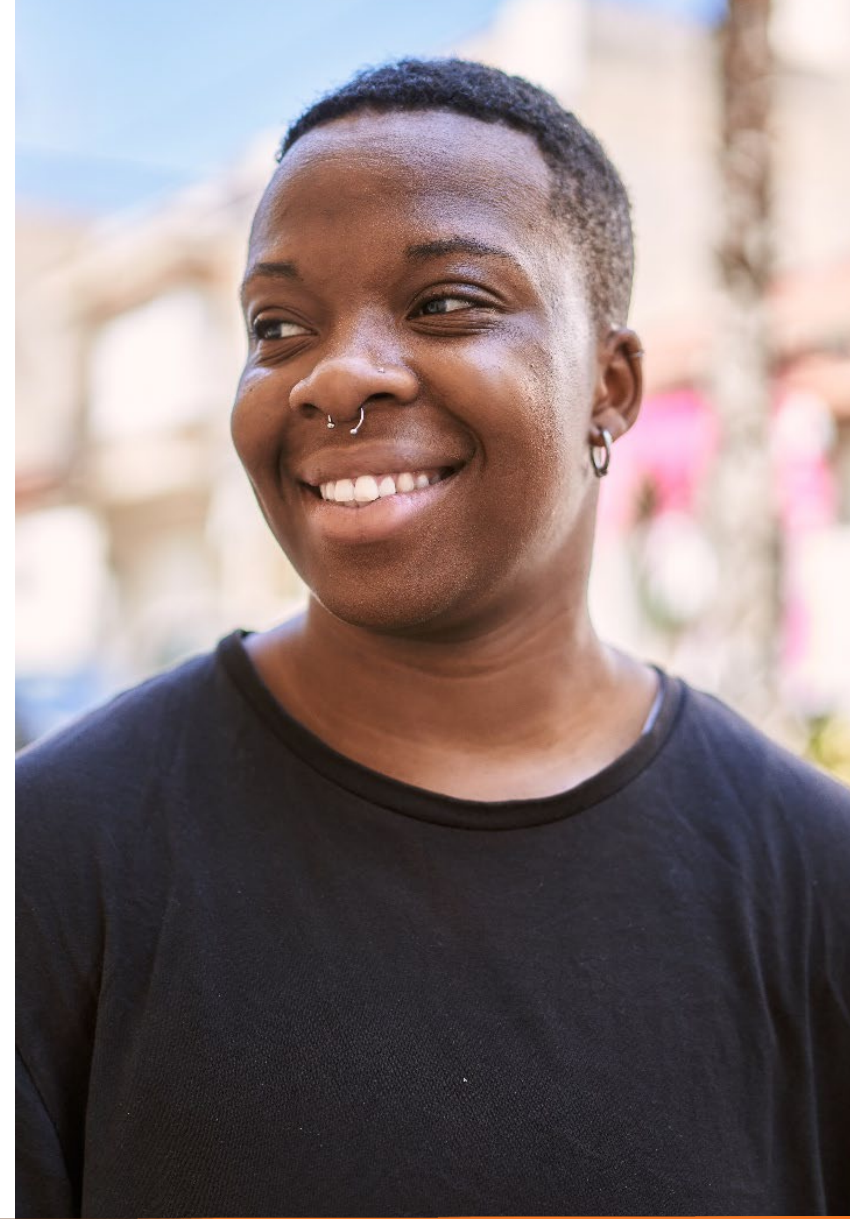
References

- The National Coalition for Sexual Health
- Roosevelt, et al. *The Journal of Perinatal & Neonatal Nursing*, 2021
- Savoy, et al. *Am Fam Physician*, 2020
- Bedsider.org

Kyle (he/him)

18 years old

- Transmasculine (TM), designated female at birth
 - Has ovaries, uterus
- Has been using testosterone (gender-affirming hormone therapy) for 2 years
- No longer menstruating
- Curious about contraception



Hormones and Contraception

- Testosterone is **not** a contraceptive
 - 16-31% of trans and gender expansive patients believed that it was, and many reported that a provider advised them that it was
- Any patient with ovaries and a uterus may ovulate during and after testosterone therapy, regardless of whether experiencing monthly bleeding
- Any patient with testes/penis may create active sperm while using estrogen therapy

References

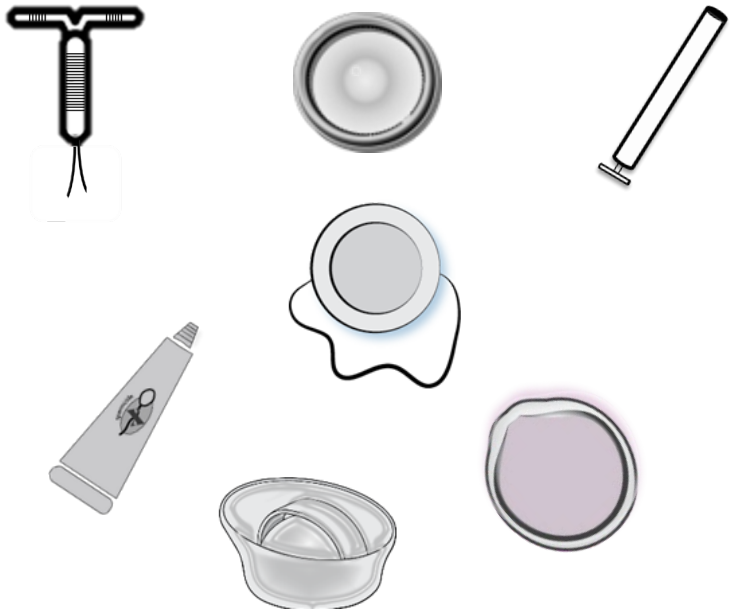
Light A, *Contraception*, 2018

Taub, et al. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*, 2020

Mumford, et al. *Curr Obstet Gynecol*, 2023

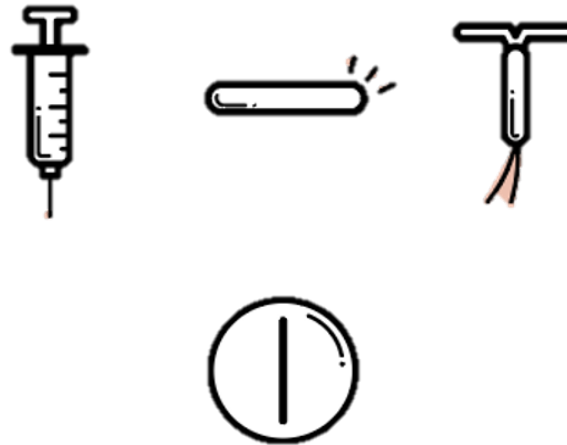
Reversible Contraceptive Options for Patients Using Testosterone

Non-hormonal methods



Progestin-only methods

Progestin does not interact with testosterone.



Combined hormonal methods

Estrogen is not contraindicated, but some patients may prefer to avoid it.



Offer the full range of contraceptive options

References

Bonnington et al. *Contraception*, 2020

Krempasky, et al. *AJOG*, 2019

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Person-Centered Contraceptive Counseling

- Reproductive desires
- Side effects
- Bleeding changes
- Is pelvic exam needed?
- Frequency of required office visits
- Route and frequency of administration

References

Abern, et al. *Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health*, 2021
Bonnington, *Contraception*, 2020
Dehlendorf, et al. *Contraception*, 2021

Light, et al. *Contraception*, 2018
Prine & Shah. *Am Fam Physician*. 2018
Todd, N. *BCMJ*, 2022



What questions can clarify Kyle's priorities?

- Do you have a sense of if/when you might *want* to become pregnant/parent?
- What contraceptive methods have you tried in the past (if any)?
 - What did you like / dislike about them?
- What side effects are acceptable to you? Which are unacceptable?
- What questions or concerns do you have?



Kyle

"I don't want to be a parent any time soon."

"I have a friend who got an IUD. They really like it. And I like the idea of not having to remember to do anything."

Provide Anticipatory Guidance

- Discomfort/pain during pelvic exam and placement
 - Discuss pre-treatment with topical estrogen x 1 – 2 weeks
- Post IUD-placement spotting, cramping
- Possibility for chest tenderness (all hormonal methods)
 - Tissue growth for gender expansive patients (even post top-surgery)

References

Boudreau et al. *J of Midwifery & Wom Health*, 2019

Krempasky, et al. *AJOG*, 2019

Same-Visit IUD Placement

- STI screening at time of placement – no need to wait for results unless concern for current STI or PID
- Place **any time** during the menstrual cycle with negative UPT*

*LNG 52 mg IUD, Copper IUD only

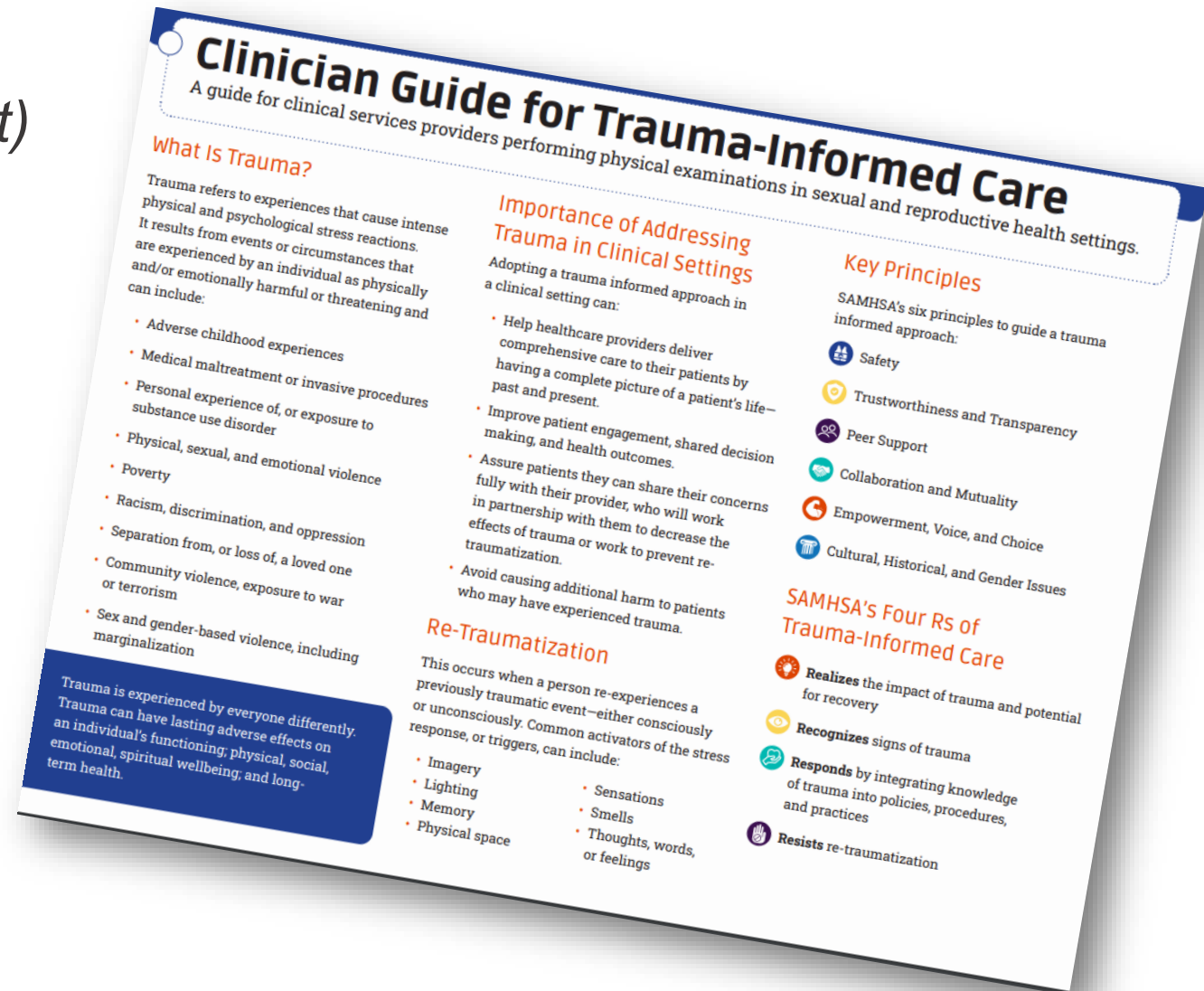
References

ACOG Practice Bulletin. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2011
Maclsaac L and Espey E. *Obstet Gynecol Clin N Am.* 2007
Sufrin C et al. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2012



Trauma-Informed IUD Placement

- Seek consent before (*and throughout*) the procedure.
- Keep the patient's body covered
- Use smallest appropriate speculum with lubricant, and offer self-insertion
- Offer options for exam positioning



References

National Clinical Training Center for Family Planning, 2022
Owens, et al. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*, 2022
Feminist Midwife

Bridging IUDs and implants with QuickStart

If unable to place IUD at your clinic today:

Offer to start patient on alternative method until patient can access their preferred method at a referral site.



Quick start can help prevent an undesired pregnancy that may occur while your patient accesses the referral.

References

<http://www.reproductiveaccess.org/resource/quick-start-algorithm/>



Kyle

- Pregnancy test is negative
- LNG-52 MG IUD placed and takes LNG ECP today
- Kyle screened for STIs today & takes condoms home

References

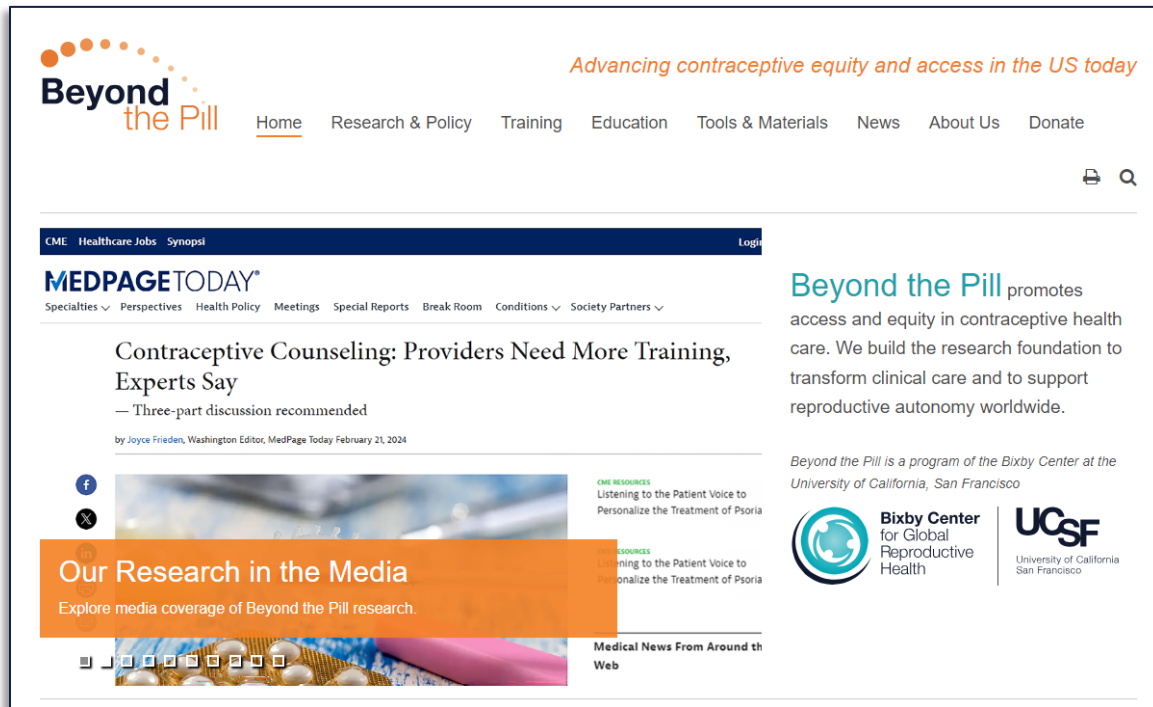
Abern, et al. *Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health*, 2021
Bonnington et al. *Contraception*, 2020
Light, et al. *Contraception*, 2018
Prine & Shah. *Am Fam Physician*, 2018

Summary

- 1 Use the MEC to assess patient eligibility for methods and the SPR for guidance on method initiation and management
- 2 Provide routine education on **all** EC methods and advance provision of EC pills
- 3 Body size alone is not a reason to restrict contraceptive method choice
- 4 Testosterone use is not a contraindication to the use of any form of birth control -- offer all methods

questions

More Resources from Beyond the Pill



beyondthepill.ucsf.edu

On our website:

- Upcoming live trainings and asynchronous learning options
- Tools & Materials (including a pre-order form for our new birth control flip charts)
- Research news and publications

*Session name:
Adolescent Care*



b.link/btpwebinar

Thank you!