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Acknowledgements

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Ordering copies and further information

Detailed information on the medical eligibility criteria, including guidance on other contraceptive methods, appears in the Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use, 3rd edition, 2004 and the 2008 Update. This can be accessed at http://www.who.int/reproductive-health or copies can be ordered from the address below.

Sample copies of the wheel can be ordered from:
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A Can insert copper IUD < 48 hrs after delivery or > 4 weeks.
B If she had no subsequent pregnancy, IUD = 2.
C Or other forms of purulent cervicitis.
D If she develops this condition while using the IUD, she can keep using it during treatment.
E If at increased risk of STIs or HIV, advise condom use.
F If very high likelihood of exposure to gonorrhoea or chlamydia = 3.
G If on ARV Therapy = 2, except ritonavir-boosted ARVs = 3.
H AIDS, but not clinically well on ARV Therapy = 3 for insertion.
I CDCs and heavy smoking = 4. CICs and light smoking = 2.
J If blood pressure cannot be measured, and she has no known history of hypertension, all methods can be used.
K The same category applies to controlled hypertension.
L Risk factors include: older age, smoking, diabetes, hypertension.
M To check if migraine has aura, ask: “Do you see a bright spot in your vision before bad headaches?”
N Migraine without aura and < 35 years old, COCs and CICs = 2.
Migraine without aura and ≥ 35 years old, CDCs and CICs = 3.
O For complicated diabetes, or having diabetes for more than 20 years, COCs, CICs, DMPA and NET-EN = 3–4.
P CDCs = 3; CICs = 2.
Q Phenytoin, carbamazepine, barbiturates, primidone, topiramate, oxcarbazepine. For lamotrigine COCs/CICs = 3. Other methods = 1.
R If she is not clinically well, IUD = 3.
S If the uterine cavity is distorted, cannot use IUD.
T > 45 yrs. = 2.
U If established on anticoagulant therapy = 2.
V DMPA = 1; NET-EN = 2.
WHO Medical Eligibility Criteria Wheel for contraceptive use (2008 update)

This wheel contains medical eligibility criteria for starting use of selected contraceptive methods. It is based on WHO’s guideline *Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use*, 3rd edition, 2004 and its 2008 Update.