

Emergency hormonal contraception

On currently available evidence regarding method efficacy and side effect profile, the Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care recommends that all contraceptive service providers now offer levonorgestrel-only emergency hormonal contraception as a first-line treatment.

Given the availability of a licensed product offering a two-tablet regimen, the Faculty no longer supports unlicensed use of multiple progestogen-only pills to achieve a 750 mcg emergency contraceptive dose.

New Herpes leaflet from Brook

Professionals responsible for sexual health will know that knowledge of herpes simplex, how it is passed and how to prevent it, is often limited amongst young people. Brook has developed a leaflet, with the support of the Herpes Virus Association and Glaxo Wellcome, in order to fill some of these knowledge gaps.

The leaflet has been widely circulated and tested and has been well received amongst:

- young people: "It answers all those questions I'd want to ask." (16 year old girl)
- youth workers: "An excellent idea...explaining the facts openly." (Outreach worker)
- medical professionals: "I'd give it to anyone asking about herpes." (Clinic nurse)

Copies of the leaflet can be obtained from Brook Publications for 30p each (10% discount on orders of 500).

Smoking cessation services

The Government has made tackling smoking one of 13 top priorities for the NHS.

To achieve the set targets, an average health authority will need to have 1500 clients accessing smoking cessation services in 2000/01, with 200 quitting on a long-term basis.

More details of smoking cessation services can be found on the NHS website at <http://www.doh.nhsweb.nhs.uk/nhssmokingcessation> or by ringing the NHS Response Line on 0541 555155.

Source: CMO's update No. 26.

Local teenage pregnancy co-ordinators appointed

- Yvette Cooper, Minister for Public Health, announced on 1st March that teenage pregnancy co-ordinators had been appointed in each local authority area in England.
- The co-ordinators will drive forward implementation of the Social Exclusion Unit report on teenage pregnancy, launched by the Prime Minister last June.
- The goals are to halve conception rates among under 18s by 2010 and to get more teenage parents into education, training and employment.
- Tackling teenage pregnancy is one of the Secretary of

State for Health's 13 key priorities within the national Priorities Guidance

The local co-ordinators, many of whom are employed by health authorities, will work with local authorities and other key stakeholders to develop a local strategy to contribute towards meeting the national goals. Local benchmarks will be agreed with the Department of Health's Teenage Pregnancy Unit by September. The local strategies are likely to include action to ensure that contraceptive services are tailored to young people's needs, to advertise clinics' confidentiality policies and to support schools in delivering more effective sex and relationships education. Co-ordinators will produce their first annual report on progress in March next year. An announcement will be made shortly on allocations to local areas from the Teenage Pregnancy Local Implementation Fund.

Yvette Cooper also announced on 1st March a new approach to supporting pregnant teenagers and teenage parents, to be piloted in 20 areas of England. The Sure Start Plus initiative will provide pregnant teenagers with impartial, one-to-one information and advice to help them make a positive decision about whether to keep their baby or opt for abortion or adoption. Teenage parents will receive an integrated support package to prevent them falling into a spiral of disadvantage and poverty.

The Social Exclusion Unit report on teenage pregnancy can be found at: www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/seu/index.htm. The press notice '150 teenage pregnancy co-ordinators appointed to drive campaign to cut teenage pregnancy' can be seen at: <http://pipe.ccta.gov.uk/coi/coipress.nst>.

Source: CMO's update No. 26.

Gyne T 380 makes brief return to Drug Tariff

Gyne T380 was removed from Drug Tariff earlier this year following Janssen-Cilag's announcement of discontinuation. Janssen-Cilag still has stocks of Gyne T380, and the device was therefore put back on the Drug Tariff in May and will remain until stocks run out. Janssen-Cilag's best guess is that this will be in about 3 months time, depending on the degree to which purchasers a) stockpile and b) change to buying alternative devices.

fpa Website - UK contraception and sexual health clinics

The new fpa website (www.fpa.org.uk) now provides full information on contraception and sexual health. This will include details of all UK contraception and sexual health clinic services. This site will be regularly updated, but relies on your input to ensure that clinic details are correct. Please inform the fpa of any changes to services so that the public and other professionals know what you provide.

For more information contact Angela Reynolds, fpa Helpline and Information Services Manager, 2-12 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9FP.