

### Missed pill rules: response from the CEU

The Clinical Effectiveness Unit acknowledges the points raised by Drs Donegan<sup>1</sup> and Mansour<sup>2</sup> in their letter and commentary article, respectively, published in this Journal. In our initial draft of the missed pill statement, the text was more detailed and included a section on practical application of missed pill guidance in each week of the pill pack.

In producing a statement there is a balance between providing adequate information and losing impact if the text is too wordy. Therefore, on review of the draft statement by the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) it was decided that for the purposes of the

missed pill communication<sup>3</sup> the information presented in Table 1 of that document and in the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) statement<sup>4</sup> would suffice. More detailed information is now available in the FSRH guidance on *Combined Hormonal Contraception* published in October 2011.<sup>5</sup>

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**Competing interests** None.

*J Fam Plann Reprod Health Care* 2012;**38**:64–65.  
doi:10.1136/jfprhc-2011-100256

## REFERENCES

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- 2 **Mansour D.** Revision of the 'missed pill' rules. *J Fam Plann Reprod Health Care* 2011;**37**:128–131.
- 3 **Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare Clinical Effectiveness Unit.** CEU Statement (May 2011). Missed Pill Recommendations: 2011. <http://www.fsrh.org/pdfs/CEUStatementMissedPills.pdf> [accessed 4 November 2011].
- 4 **Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA).** MHRA UK Public Assessment Report. *Combined Oral Contraceptives (The Pill): When to Start Taking The Pill, and Missed Pill Advice*. May 2011. <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/Generalsafetyinformationandadvice/Product-specificinformationandadvice/Product-specificinformationandadvice-G-L/Hormonalcontraceptives/index.htm> [accessed 4 November 2011].
- 5 **Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare Clinical Effectiveness Unit.** FSRH Guidance (October 2011). *Combined Hormonal Contraception*. 2011. <http://www.fsrh.org/pdfs/CEUGuidanceCombinedHormonalContraception.pdf> [accessed 4 November 2011].