LETTERS/MEETINGS AND COURSES

Dr McCarthy makes three specific points about the emergency contraception Guidance. Firstly, he questions our recommendation that the first-line choice of emergency IUD should be a device ‘with banded copper on the arms and containing at least 380 mm² of copper’. Dr McCarthy correctly states that there is no evidence that any particular IUD is more effective than any other for emergency contraception. Our recommendation was made on the basis that an IUD with at least 380 mm² of copper has been shown to be most effective for regular contraception. We have tried to convey in the wording of our recommendation, and in the supporting text, that the reason for the recommendation is because many women who have an emergency IUD inserted retain the device as their regular method of contraception. The CESH considers that women are best served by being fitted with an emergency IUD that is optimal for regular contraception; this avoids the potential discomfort and inconvenience of having to replace an emergency IUD with a different device for long-term use.

Secondly, Dr McCarthy points out that the table of ‘commonly occurring situations’ when emergency contraception is indicated makes no mention of the transdermal combined contraceptive patch. As he says, NHS PRODIGY Guidance on emergency contraception does include recommendations relating to ‘patch off’. I agree that for completeness, we should have included recommendations for the combined patch. In the event, the expert group developing the CEU Guidance on emergency contraception did not consider ‘patch omission’ to be a commonly occurring situation. Nevertheless, this point will be taken into consideration at the next revision of the Guidance.

Thirdly, Dr McCarthy draws attention to our Good Practice Point, namely: ‘Women can be advised that LNG EC can be used more than once in a cycle if clinically indicated’ and asks whether this use is currently within or outwith the terms of the ‘product licence’. The text supporting this Good Practice Point quotes the current Summary of Product Characteristics for Levonelle 1500, which states that giving repeated doses within the same menstrual cycle is not advised ‘because of disturbances to the cycle’. Thus, repeated use of levonorgestrel remains ‘outwith product licence’ and for consistency with other Good Practice Points in the Guidance this should, perhaps, have been included within the wording of the Good Practice Point itself, rather than simply in the supporting text.

Gillian C Penney, FFPRHC,
FHPRHC Clinical Effectiveness Unit, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK. E-mail: g.c.penney@abdn.ac.uk

Reference

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are welcome and generally should not exceed 600 words or cite more than five references. For comments on material published in the most recent issue of the Journal, correspondence should be received within 4 weeks of dispatch of that Journal to be in time for inclusion in the next issue. When submitting letters, correspondents should include their job title, a maximum of two qualifications and their address(es). A statement on competing interests should also be submitted for all letters. Letters may be submitted to the Editor or the Journal Editorial Office (details on page 145).

Meetings and Courses

- **Annual Courses**
  - **Title:** Potential Instructing Doctors Course organised by the University of Manchester. Details: See display advertisement on inside back cover.
  - **Annual Courses**
    - **Title:** Courses on Current Issues in Sexual and Reproductive Health organised by The Manchester Interbranch Trust. Details: See display advertisement on page 207.
  - **Annual Courses**
    - **Title:** University of Liverpool Courses in Sexual and Reproductive Health. Details: See display advertisement on page 207.
  - **7 September, 5 October, 2 November, 7 December 2006**
    - **Title:** DFFP Modular Theory Course. Venue: Kingsley Centre, Fradford, Cowburn, UK. Details: This course covers the four modules of the DFFP theory course (contraception) and would need the addition of a STIF course to complete the syllabus. Accreditation: FFPRHC applied for. Information: Mike Gray, ‘Crescetis’, Eglosmere Farm, St Erme, Truro, Cornwall TR4 9BW, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 1872 242192. Fax: +44 (0) 1872 242197. E-mail: mikegray@lineone.net.
  - **16 September 2006**
    - **Title:** Autumn Meeting of the North West Society of Sexual Medicine and Family Planning. Venue: Woodlands Conference Centre, Chorley, UK. Details: Morning session: contraception choices for women with a history of breast cancer – a study of women attending breast clinics; evening session: ‘My patient said she had a patient-led NHS – were we right?’ update on IUDs. Afternoon session: Domestic Violence – Theatre Drama Group: “The clinician’s perspective – hints and tips for tackling this issue in your practice”. Accreditation: Faculty for Instructing Doctors. Information: Miss L. Barnard, Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital, 30-40 Dean’s Road, Liverpool L6 9SB, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 1257 267657. E-mail: mavis@lilianbarnard.freeserve.co.uk.
  - **6 October 2006**
    - **Title:** 17th Annual Symposium on Women’s Health. Venue: Royal Society of Medicine, London, UK. Details: Series of interesting and informative update lectures by some eminent consultants and professors on topics including: HPV vaccines; women and HIV; why women need testosterone; breast disease and HRT; hair loss/hairiness in women; alternative medicines; premature menopause. Accreditation: FFPRHC approved. Information: Barbara Halstead, Women’s Health Concern, Whitchall House, 2 Whitehall, London SW1A 2BY, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 1628 524009 or +44 (0) 20 7451 1377. Fax: +44 (0) 20 7925 1505. E-mail: bhalsead@women’s-health-concern.org.uk. Website registration: www.womens-health-concern.org.uk.
  - **12–13 October 2006**
    - **Title:** British Menopause Society/FFPRHC Menopause Special Skills Course. Venue: Headland Hotel, Newquay, Cornwall, UK. Details: This course is practical and interactive in format. It is based on the workshop style of the DFFP but addresses issues of post-reproductive health. Its aim is to equip the clinician to work within a menopause clinic or primary care environment. Accreditation: FFPRHC approved. Information: Mike Gray, ‘Crescetis’, Eglosmere Farm, St Erme, Truro, Cornwall TR4 9BW, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 1872 242192. Fax: +44 (0) 1872 242197. E-mail: mikegray@lineone.net.
  - **14 October 2005**
    - **Title:** Northern Interbranch Group Autumn Update, Venue: Cedar Court Hotel, Huddersfield (J24 M62), Ainley Top, Huddersfield, UK. Details: A 1-day update meeting for members and guests on reproductive and sexual health. Topics to include: termination of pregnancy and vasectomy, and facilitated discussion of case studies. Accreditation: NGEA and FFPRHC applied for. Information: Dr Myra Holbrook, 20 Grange Close, Skelton, York YO30 1YR, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 1904 470674. E-mail: myra.holbrook@york.nhs.uk.
  - **18 November 2006**
    - **Title:** Continuing Education in Reproductive and Sexual Health Annual Update Day. Venue: London, UK. Details: A one-day annual updating day suitable for all health professionals working in the field of sexual and reproductive health. Also display advert on page 208. Accreditation: FFPRHC applied for. Information: Grace Gray, Training Administrator, Sexual & Reproductive Health Training Partnership, Southwark PCT, St Giles Road, London SE5 7RN, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 20 7771 3322. Fax: +44 (0) 20 7771 3338. E-mail: shrtp@southwarkpct.nhs.uk.
  - **22–20 November 2006**
    - **Title:** Residential Course for Potential Instructing Doctors organised by The Sexual & Reproductive Health Training Partnership. Details: See display advertisement on page 208.
  - **23–24 November 2006**
    - **Title:** FFPRHC Current Choices Conference. Details: See display advertisement on page 208.
The Advancement of Medical Education & Research in Sexual and Reproductive Health

2006 UPDATE COURSES IN SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH:

These internationally renowned study days will be taking place at the Royal Society of Medicine in London. They are designed for doctors and nurses working in Primary Care or Community Women’s Health Services, but anyone is welcome to attend. The aim is to offer latest information and current thinking on a variety of issues in sexual and reproductive health care. A contraception update will be on the agenda in addition to topical lectures from those at the highest level in their specialty. Also there will be opportunities for you to have your questions answered and to meet with colleagues over a buffet lunch.

Venue: The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1G 0AE

these advanced update courses will have 5 hours Faculty accreditation which are valid for re-certification of the DFFP. Also we apply for and study leave approval from the ICGP

Programme details for July are now on our website – places are still available so if you can attend at short notice, please do

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MERSEY REGION GROUP FOR FAMILY PLANNING TRAINING
(The University of Liverpool)

will be holding the following courses and conferences:

Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care Basic Theoretical Courses (all 6 modules)
Blair Bell Conference Centre
Liverpool Women’s Hospital
Monday–Wednesday, 4–6 December 2006
Monday–Wednesday, 23–25 April 2007
Monday–Wednesday, 11–13 June 2007
Monday–Wednesday, 24–26 September 2007
Monday–Wednesday, 3–5 December 2007

IUDs/IUS: An Update
Thursday evening, 28 September 2006
Blair Bell Conference Centre
Liverpool Women’s Hospital

Annual Women’s Health Issues Conference
Thursday, 12 October 2006
Park Royal Hotel, Warrington

Regional Instructing Doctors Meeting
Thursday, 26 October 2006
Blair Bell Conference Centre
Liverpool Women’s Hospital

*Residential Potential Family Planning Instructing Doctors Course
Thursday–Saturday, 9–11 November 2006
Alicia Hotel, Sefton Park, Liverpool
*Part funding may be sought from Schering Health Care

The above are run in association with The Mersey Deanery and will contribute towards your appraisal.

For further information please contact:
Mrs Carmel Farrell
Mersey Region Group for Family Planning Training, Liverpool Women’s NHS Foundation Trust, 2nd Floor, Crown Street
Liverpool L8 7SS, UK
Tel: 0151 702 4102 Fax: 0151 702 4039
E-mail: Carmel.Farrell@lwh.nhs.uk
(9.15am–3.15pm Monday–Thursday)

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Margaret Pyke Centre, 73 Charlotte Street, London W1T 4PL
www.margaretpyke.org

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For further information, contact:
Rosemary Massouras, 020 7530 3619,
rosemarymassouras@margaretpyke.org

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THE FACULTY OF FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE  
of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists  

Forthcoming Meeting  

The Current Choices Conference  

will take place at The Royal Society of Medicine, London on  

Thursday 23 November and Friday 24 November 2006  

The programme will include:  

- Intra-uterine devices  
- The evidence based approach  
- Common clinical challenges  
- Depo-Provera Interactive session – All you want to know  
- Implementing LARC guidelines  
- Making contraceptive choices and taking risks  
- Choice and decision making in sexual health  
- Risk taking behaviour and unplanned pregnancy  
- The influence of the media on choices and risks in reproductive health  
- Contraception of the past and future  
- Looking back – a historical review  
- Hormonal contraception – new developments  
- Office gynaecology  
- Investigating and managing secondary amenorrhoea  
- Modern management of menorrhagia  
- Sexual health in middle youth  
- Common vulval disorders  
- Evidence based pre-conception counselling  
- Current patterns of adoption in the UK  
- Middle-aged pregnancy: private grief or public health disaster?  
- Debate – is the male menopause underdiagnosed or misunderstood?  

A trade exhibition will also be held in conjunction with the meeting.  

Please register online: www.ffprhc.org.uk  

For further information please contact the FFP and RHC Secretariat at:  
Current Choices 2006, c/o Meeting Makers, Jordanhill Campus, 76 Southbrae Drive,  
Glasgow, G13 1PP. Tel: +44 (0) 141 434 1500 Fax: +44 (0) 141 434 1519  
E-mail: currentchoices2006@meetingmakers.co.uk