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 CEU 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 outside 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 results ‘outside 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, FRCOG, FFPRHC
Clinical Effectiveness Unit, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK. E-mail: g.c.penney@abdn.ac.uk

Reference
1 Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care

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).
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

MARGARET PYKE MEMORIAL TRUST
The Advancement of Medical Education & Research in Sexual and Reproductive Health with
Camden NHS Primary Care Trust

Basic 3 Day Theoretical Courses – the Diploma of the Faculty of Family Planning (DFFP):

September course is fully booked. Details of the course in December (4th – 6th) are on our website – some places still available. Dates for 2007 will be published in July.

A one day Theory Course for Nurses in the Fitting of Intrauterine Devices will be held in London on Wednesday 18th October – application form is on the website

For further information, contact:
Rosemary Massouras, 020 7530 3619,
rosemarymassouras@margaretpyke.org
Margaret Pyke Centre, 73 Charlotte Street, London W1T 4PL
www.margaretpyke.org

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)
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