Guideline for Contraception

Promote planned pregnancy.
Ask about birth control at every visit and start a method today.

Not using contraception or using inconsistently?
- 85 out of 100 sexually active women will become pregnant within 1 year when not using contraception.
- Almost half of all pregnancies in the U.S. are unplanned.
- There is a safe and effective method for every woman.

Assure confidentiality.
- Concerns about privacy are a major barrier to patient-provider communications.
- Minors in Colorado (anyone <18 yrs.) are legally authorized access to confidential services for contraception/ Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI)/ Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) testing without parental consent. Always encourage communication with parents.

Screen for conditions that may require additional counseling.
- Refer to chart on U.S. Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use, 2010, if significant medical condition (link to chart: http://www.healthteamworks.org/guidelines/contraception.html).
- Conditions that limit use of methods with estrogen (Oral Contraceptive Pills, Patch, Ring): Smoking and ≥35 yrs. old; History of stroke/clot/thrombophilia; Uncontrolled hypertension; Migraine with aura.
- Refer to Health TeamWorks Preconception Guideline for other recommended screening for lifestyle and co-morbidities.

Pelvic exam not required to provide contraception.
- Start Pap screening at age 21 no matter age of first intercourse, then every 2-3 years.†
- CDC recommends annual screening for chlamydia/gonorrhea in sexually active women <26 years old.**
  - Age alone is indication to screen, even in absence of symptoms or high-risk behaviors.†
  - High risk women of any age should be screened annually.†**
  - Test via urine or self-collected vaginal swab.‡

Start method today, using this “Quick Start” Protocol: §
- WHY? Women are more satisfied with their method if they start now instead of waiting until their next period.
- HOW? Instruct women to start their method TODAY (this includes pill, patch, ring, Depo) no matter the timing in the menstrual cycle. Backup method (like condoms) still recommended for the first week. Suggest Emergency Contraception (EC) if unprotected sex within past 5 days (see EC on reverse side).
- Pregnancy test not needed if:
  - Within the first 5 days of menstrual cycle, or
  - Currently using an effective method.
- Pregnancy test recommended if:
  - Unexpected or irregular bleeding, or “late” for menses.
  - Sexually active and not using consistent, effective method.
  - Unprotected sex in the last 14 days. Quick Start today if negative pregnancy test; repeat test in 2 weeks.
- What is the risk of pregnancy with “Quick Start”?*
  - Studies indicate a 3% chance of pregnancy during the cycle that Quick Start is used.
  - Overall, risk is decreased because women can become pregnant while waiting to start their method.
  - Hormones in contraception do not cause birth defects or increase risk of miscarriage if pregnancy does occur.

*ACOG Practice Bulletin, Number 109 (December 2009).
†United States Preventive Services Task Force.
**STD Treatment Guidelines, 2010 (CDC)

This guideline is adapted from the U.S. Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (CDC 2010) and is designed to assist the primary care provider when counseling on contraception. It is not intended to replace a clinician’s judgment or establish a protocol for all patients. For guideline updates, including new drugs or products, resources, references, and additional copies of the guideline go to www.healthteamworks.org or call (720)297-1681. This guideline was supported through funds from The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Approved 12/10/10
**Long-Acting Methods: most effective methods and considerations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implant</td>
<td>✔️ Subdermal Arm Implant (Implanon®): Lasts 3 years. Progesterin-only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intrauterine Devices</td>
<td>✔️ Mirena® (Levonorgestrel IUS): Lasts 5 years. Also indicated for the treatment of heavy bleeding. ParaGard® (Copper T): Lasts 10 years. Contains no hormones.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**All Providers: “Quick Start” Today**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Progestin Injection (Depo-Provera)</td>
<td>✔️ Repeat injection every 11-13 weeks. Can be given up to 16 weeks after previous injection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estrogen and Progestin</td>
<td>✔️ Patient needs to obtain refills frequently and use as directed to be effective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✔️ Indicated to treat acne, PMS, heavy periods, cramping, pain, regulate bleeding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✔️ Can be prescribed to reduce or eliminate periods with extended or continuous use.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Oral Contraceptive Pills:** Start w/ most cost-effective pill; despite advertising, blinded studies show little or no difference between pill brands in efficacy or side effects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rx: Generic or Brand*</th>
<th>Sig: 1 tab po QD</th>
<th>Refills: prn x 1 year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NuvaRing®</td>
<td>Sig: insert vaginally for 21 days; remove x 7 days; repeat w/ new ring</td>
<td>Disp: up to 12 months Refills: prn x 1 year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vaginal Ring (NuvaRing®):** Hormones are released into the bloodstream through a vaginal ring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rx: NuvaRing®</th>
<th>Sig: apply weekly x 3 weeks; off x 7 days; repeat</th>
<th>Disp: up to 12 months Refills: prn x 1 year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ortho Evra®</td>
<td>Sig: prn x 1 year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Patch (Ortho Evra®):** Hormones are released into the bloodstream through a skin patch.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rx: Ortho Evra®</th>
<th>Sig: prn x 1 year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg</td>
<td>Sig: 1.5 mg po x 1 dose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Condoms**

| ✔️ Only method that prevents STIs. Male latex condoms are 99% effective in preventing HIV with correct, consistent use. |
|                                                                                                                                      |
| ✔️ Can also be used to prevent infection during oral and anal sex. |
| ✔️ Encourage use with all other methods for prevention of STIs. |

**EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC)**

1. **Recommend** to any woman with unprotected intercourse in the last 120 hours (= 5 days).
2. **No exam, no testing needed.** No medical condition (or age) that precludes use.
3. **Provide information and Rx if needed.**
   - Available over the counter to anyone age 17 or older. (Generic: Next Choice; Brand: Plan B One Step®, EllaOne®)
   - For anyone 16 years or younger write/call Rx.
   - Works by delaying ovulation; not harmful if already pregnant.
   - See HealthTeamWorks website for EC information, patient handout, and a list of oral contraceptive pills that can be used as EC.
4. **Recommend “Quick Start” contraceptive method.** Start method now and perform pregnancy test in 2 weeks.

---

*Find out which generic OCP is on the pharmacy’s low cost drug list: see table at http://www.healthteamworks.org/guidelines/contraception.html*

---

**Notes:**

- **ACOG Committee Opinion Number 415 (2008).**