

About this wheel

This wheel contains the medical eligibility criteria for starting use of contraceptive methods. It is based on *Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use, 3rd edition (2004)*, one of WHO's evidence-based guidelines. It tells family planning providers if a woman presenting with a known medical or physical condition is able to use various contraceptive methods safely and effectively.

The wheel includes recommendations on initiating use of six common types of contraceptives:

1. Combined pills (low dose combined oral contraceptives, with $\leq 35 \mu\text{g}$ ethinylestradiol)
2. Combined injectable contraceptives (Cyclofem and Mesigyna)
3. Progestogen-only pills
4. Progestogen-only injectables, DMPA (a 3-monthly injectable) and NET-EN (a 2-monthly injectable)
5. Progestogen-only implants (Norplant, Jadelle, and Implanon)
6. Copper-bearing IUD

The guidance in the wheel applies to initiation of contraceptive methods. Recommendations for continuation of method use, when a woman develops a medical condition while using the method, can be found in the *Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use* guideline.

How to use this wheel

The wheel matches up the contraceptive methods, shown on the inner disk, with specific medical conditions shown around the outer rim. The numbers shown in the viewing slot tell you whether the woman who has this known condition is able to start use of the contraceptive method:

- 1 = Yes:** Use the method in any circumstance
- 2 = Yes:** Generally use the method
- 3 = No:** Use of the method is not usually recommended unless other more appropriate methods are not available or acceptable
- 4 = No:** Method NOT to be used

Categories 1 and 4 are clearly defined recommendations. For categories 2 or 3, greater clinical judgement will be needed and careful follow-up may be required. If clinical judgement is limited, categories 1 and 2 both mean the method can be used, and categories 3 and 4 both mean the method should not be used.

No restrictions for some conditions: There are many medical conditions when ALL methods can be used (that is, all the methods are either a category 1 or 2). These conditions are listed on the back of the wheel.

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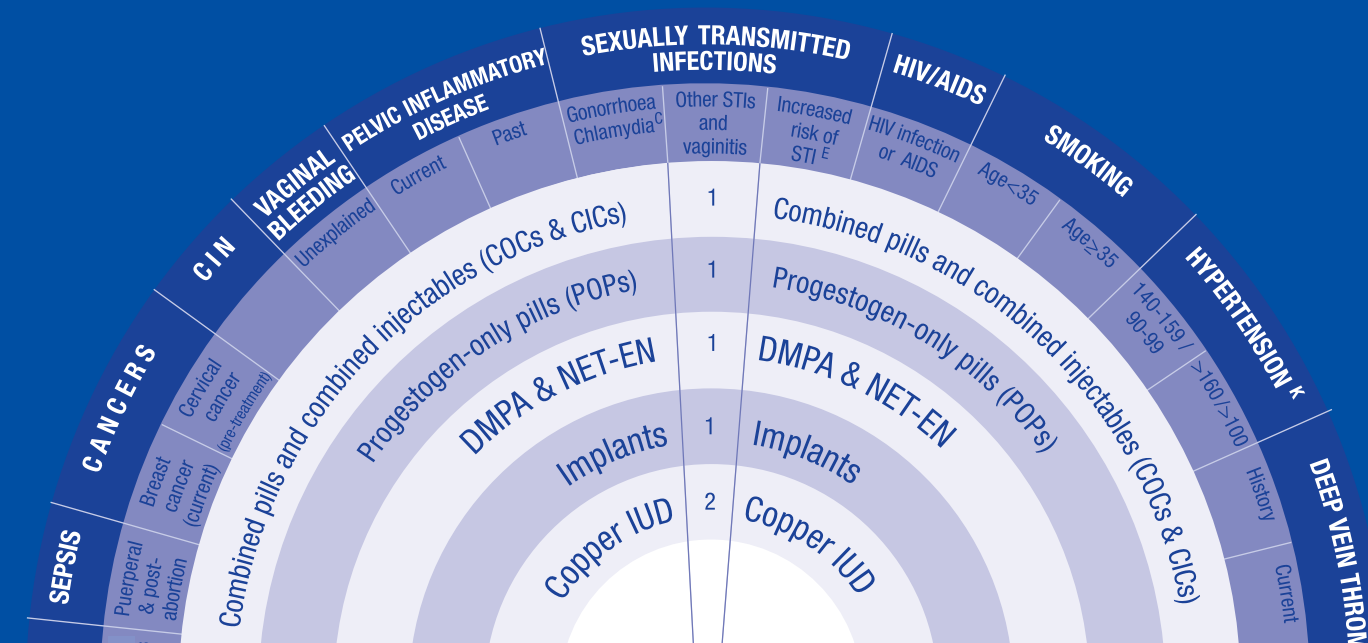


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MEDICAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA WHEEL FOR CONTRACEPTIVE USE



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Ordering copies and further information

Detailed information on the medical eligibility criteria, including guidance on other contraceptive methods, appears in the *Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use*, 3rd edition, 2004. This can be accessed at <http://www.who.int/reproductive-health> or copies can be ordered from the address below.

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