



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Reference: EDP24062025/01

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NOTICE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

This notice serves to reiterate that the Primary Healthcare (PHC) and Adult Hospital Level Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) ONLY recommends the use of Copper IUCD, OR Levonorgestrel, for emergency contraception. These recommendations replace the recommendations contained in the 2012 National Contraceptive Clinical Guidelines.

The recommendations are as follows:

Emergency contraception after pregnancy is excluded: Do a pregnancy test in all women and female adolescents. Children must be tested and given emergency contraception from Breast Tanner Stage III. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copper IUCD inserted as soon as possible after unprotected intercourse and no later than 5 days. OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levonorgestrel, 1.5 mg, oral, as a single dose as soon as possible after unprotected intercourse, and not later than 5 days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the client vomits within 2 hours, repeat the dose. <p>Advise women that their period should be on time. It is rarely delayed but it should not be more than 7 days late. If this occurs, they should come back for a pregnancy test.</p>

Note: Use of combined oral contraceptive: ethinylestradiol 50 mcg + norgestrel 500 mcg (Ovral® tablets) is no longer supported.

The latest STG and EML guidance can be accessed on the National Health Insurance (NHI), National Department of Health Webpage, at the following URL: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml/>
 The newly published PHC Family Planning Chapter can be accessed at: https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/PHCh7_FP_Combined_F2020-4_Version-1.0_-April-2025.pdf

Procurement information

NSN	Product Description	Supplier Name	Price*
189753751	IUCD, Copper; Implant; 1 Device	Bayer (Pty) Ltd	R248.00
181901862	Levonorgestrel; 1.5mg; Tablet; 1 Tablet	Viatrix Healthcare (Pty) Ltd	R20.12

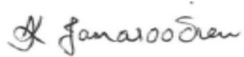
*June 2025 Master Health Product List

NOTICE: STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

Communication and dissemination of information

Provinces and Healthcare Facilities are requested to distribute and communicate this information in consultation with the Women's/Reproductive Health Programme and Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committees to ensure that the recommended emergency contraception is appropriately and correctly used. Kindly share with all healthcare professionals and relevant stakeholders.

Kind regards,



MS KHADIJA JAMALOODIEN
CHIEF DIRECTOR: SECTOR WIDE
PROCUREMENT
DATE: 30/06/2025



DR LESLEY BAMFORD
ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: MATERNAL,
CHILD AND WOMEN'S HEALTH
DATE: 27/06/2025