

Oral Contraceptives Toolkit

K4Health eToolkits

K4Health eToolkits (www.k4health.org/toolkits) are collections of carefully selected information resources for health policy makers, program managers, and service providers. (See *more details, below.*)

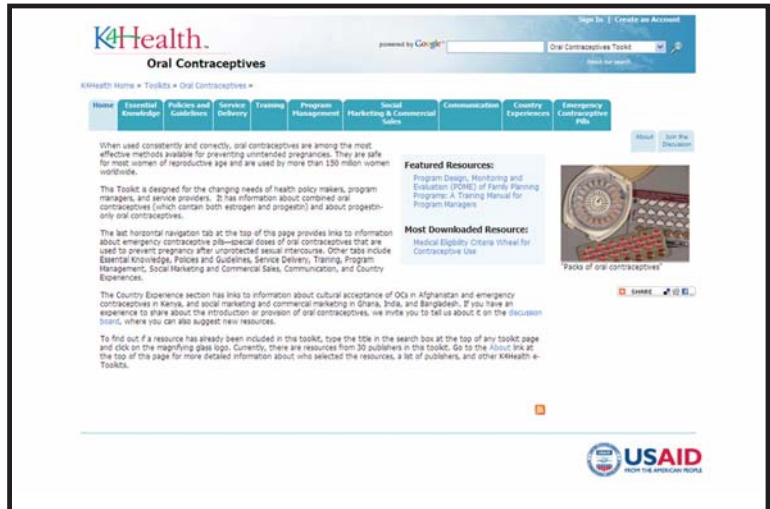
Oral Contraceptives Toolkit

When used consistently and correctly, oral contraceptives are among the most effective methods available for preventing unintended pregnancies. They are safe for most women of reproductive age and are used by more than 150 million women worldwide.

The Oral Contraceptives Toolkit (www.k4health.org/toolkits/oral-contraceptives) provides information for health policy makers, program managers, service providers, information officers, and others about combined oral contraceptives (which contain both estrogen and progestin) and about progestin-only oral contraceptives. In addition, one tab focuses on emergency contraceptive pills - special doses of oral contraceptives that are used to prevent pregnancy after unprotected sexual intercourse.

Oral Contraceptive Toolkit Partners

FHI staff selected the resources in the Oral Contraceptives Toolkit based on a wide search for relevant published and grey literature from around the world. Staff from Family Care International, BEMFAM, and Jhpiego also contributed their experience and expertise to review the toolkit and ensure its relevance and usefulness. K 4Health invites users to suggest additional resources to fill information gaps, and share with other users how they have used or plan to use the toolkit. A built-in, moderated discussion board is provided for this purpose.



K4Health eToolkits (continued)

Partners with expertise and experience in the topic develop the toolkits collaboratively using a series of online features, including audio- and video-conferencing tools, text chatting, and a commenting feature that allows invited collaborators to provide comments about individual resources and toolkit sections. This participatory approach guarantees that the toolkits are of the highest quality. The continuous publishing principle on which toolkits are based allows them to evolve after publication to capture additional resources and to identify and fill remaining information gaps.

(To see a list of all K4Health eToolkits and those in production go to www.k4health.org/toolkits. If you, or your organization, would like to develop a toolkit not already on the list, please contact the k4Health eToolkits team at: Toolkits@k4health.org.)

K4Health Oral Contraceptives

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K4Health Home » Toolkit » Oral Contraceptives » Country Experiences


Home Essential Knowledge Publications and Guidelines Service Delivery Training Program Management Social Marketing & Commercial Sales Communication Country Experiences Emergency Contraceptive Pills

About Join the Discussion

Country Experiences

Oral contraceptives were developed about 50 years ago and have since been introduced in many family planning programs. A variety of approaches involving social and commercial markets exists to improve access to oral contraceptives and increase their use. Here you will find recent case studies and reports on the experiences particular countries have had with these approaches to offering oral contraceptive services.

Have a comment about this section or a resource you'd like to suggest? Please visit our [discussion board](#).



Cultural Acceptability

Mainstreaming Emergency Contraception (EC) in Kenya
2009
Population Council/Population Services International
English

This report documents an initiative by the Kenya Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation to mainstream emergency contraception in Kenya, beginning in late 2006. The initiative aimed to increase awareness of emergency contraception and strengthen the provision of services in the public and private sectors. Outcomes of the initiative and lessons learned for future initiatives are highlighted.

[Read more >](#)

Innovations in Family Planning: The Accelerating Contraceptive Use Project
2007
Management Sciences for Health
10 p
English

Country Experiences

A variety of approaches involving social and commercial markets exists to improve access to oral contraceptives and to increase their use. This section has links to reports on cultural acceptability in Kenya and Afghanistan, social marketing in India, Bangladesh, and Nigeria, and commercial marketing in Ghana.

Emergency Contraceptive Pills

Emergency contraception can prevent pregnancy after unprotected intercourse, the failure of a contraceptive method, or incorrect method use. The most common kind of emergency contraception is a hormonal pill (or pills) containing levonorgestrel, a hormone. This section contains comprehensive information about emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs).

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K4Health Home » Toolkit » Oral Contraceptives » Emergency Contraceptive Pills

Home Essential Knowledge Publications and Guidelines Service Delivery Training Program Management Social Marketing & Commercial Sales Communication Country Experiences Emergency Contraceptive Pills

About Join the Discussion


Emergency Contraceptive Pills

Emergency contraception can prevent pregnancy after unprotected intercourse, the failure of a contraceptive method, or incorrect method use. The most common kind of emergency contraception is a hormonal pill (or pills) containing levonorgestrel, a hormone that is found in many commonly used oral contraceptives. Many brands of regular birth control pills can also be used for emergency contraception, but they may be slightly less effective and have more side effects. A new compound, ulipristal acetate (brand name "ella"), has been introduced recently for emergency contraception, but it is not yet available in developing countries. (The copper T 380 can also be used as emergency contraception up to five days after intercourse.)

Access to emergency contraceptive pills is growing, but the method still is not widely available in all countries. Where governments allow the method to be dispensed over the counter, pharmacy provision far outweighs public-sector provision.

This section of the toolkit provides comprehensive information about emergency contraceptive pills, including how to deliver services and experiences introducing them in developing countries.

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General Information

International Consortium for Emergency Contraception
Regularly updated
International Consortium for Emergency Contraception
English

The International Consortium for Emergency Contraception is dedicated to increasing access to emergency contraception around the world. The consortium's Web site provides information on emergency contraception, including a searchable database of related publications. Details on the availability of emergency contraceptive pills in specific countries are also presented.

[Read more >](#)

The Emergency Contraception Website
Regularly updated
Princeton University