

## How to use this wheel

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

CATEGORY	WITH CLINICAL JUDGEMENT	WITH LIMITED CLINICAL JUDGEMENT
1	Use method in any circumstance	YES (Use the method)
2	Generally use method	
3	Use of method not usually recommended unless other more appropriate methods are not available or not acceptable	NO (Do not use the method)
4	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). Some of these conditions are listed on the back of the wheel.

With few exceptions, all women can safely use emergency contraception, barrier and behavioural methods of contraception, including lactational amenorrhoea method; for the complete list of recommendations, please see the full document.

Only correct and consistent use of condoms, male or female, protect against STI/HIV. If there is a risk of STI/HIV, condom use is recommended.

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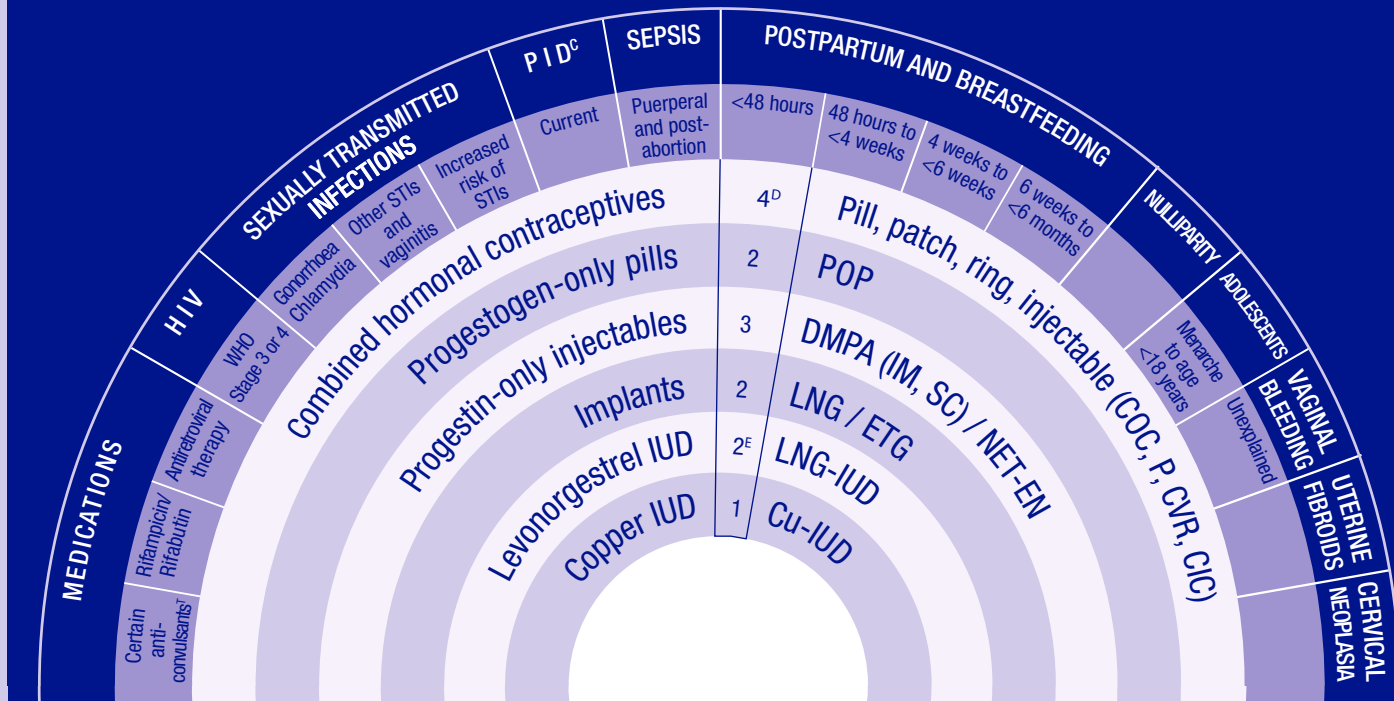
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WHO

# MEDICAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA WHEEL FOR CONTRACEPTIVE USE

2015



Combined hormonal contraceptives  
Progestogen-only pills

Progestogen-only injectables  
Implants

Levonorgestrel IUD  
Copper IUD

Pill, patch, ring, injectable (COC, P, CWR, CIC)  
POP  
DMPA (IM, SC) / NET-EN  
LNG / ETG  
LNG-IUD  
Cu-IUD

**1** Use the method in any circumstance

**2** Generally use the method

**3** Use of the method not usually recommended unless other, more appropriate methods are not available or acceptable

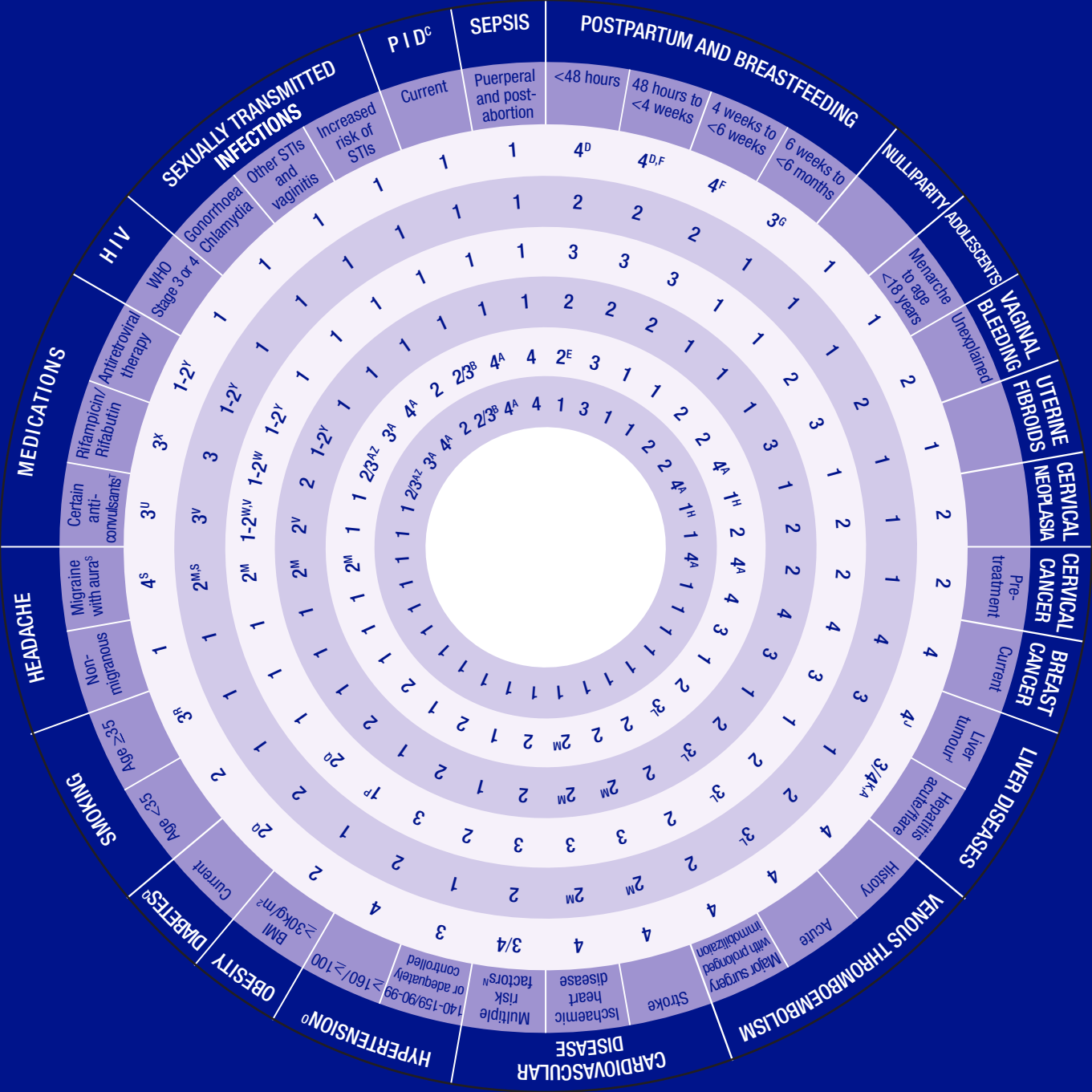
**4** Method NOT to be used

## WHO Medical Eligibility Criteria Wheel for contraceptive use, 2015

These methods do not protect against STI/HIV. If there is a risk of STI/HIV, the correct and consistent use of condoms, male or female, is recommended.



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- A** If condition develops while using method, can continue using it during treatment.
- B** If very high likelihood of exposure to gonorrhoea or chlamydia =3.
- C** If past pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) all methods =1, including IUDs.
- D** If <3 wks, not breastfeeding & no other VTE risk factors =3.
- E** If not breastfeeding =1.
- F** If 3 to <6 wks, not breastfeeding & no other VTE risk factors =2, with other VTE risk factors =3.

- G** If ≥6 wks & not breastfeeding =1.
- H** If uterine cavity distorted preventing insertion =4.
- I** Refers to hepatocellular adenoma (benign) or carcinoma/hepatoma (malignant).
- J** If adenoma CIC =3, if carcinoma/hepatoma CIC =3/4.
- K** CIC =3.
- L** If established on anticoagulation therapy =2.
- M** If condition developed while on this method, consider switching to non-hormonal method.
- N** Risk factors: older age, smoking, diabetes, hypertension, obesity & known dyslipidaemias.
- O** If cannot measure blood pressure & no known history of hypertension, can use all methods. Either systolic or diastolic blood pressure may be elevated.
- P** If age <18 yrs & obese DMPA/NET-EN =2.
- Q** For insulin-dependent & non-insulin-dependent. If complicated or >20 yrs duration, COC/P/CVR, CIC =3/4; DMPA, NET-EN =3.

- R** If <15 cigarettes/day CIC =2. If ≥15 cigarettes/day COC/P/CVR =4.
- S** Aura is focal neurological symptoms, such as flickering lights. If no aura & age <35 COC/P/CVR, CIC =2, POP =1. If no aura & age ≥35 COC/P/CVR, CIC =3, POP =1.
- T** Barbituates, carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, phenytoin, primidone, topiramate & lamotrigine.
- U** If barbituates, carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, phenytoin, primidone or topiramate CIC =2.
- V** If lamotrigine =1.
- W** DMPA =1, NET-EN =2.
- X** CICs =2.
- Y** If antiretroviral therapy with EFV, NVP, ATV/r, LPV/r, DRV/r, RTV: COC/P/CVR, CIC, POP, NET-ET, Implants =2; DMPA =1. For all NRTIs, ETR, RPV, RAL each method =1. See jacket for full names of medications.
- Z** If WHO Stage 3 or 4 (severe or advanced HIV clinical disease) IUD =3.

### Conditions that are category 1 and 2 for all methods (method can be used)

**Reproductive Conditions:** Benign breast disease or undiagnosed mass • Benign ovarian tumours, including cysts • Dysmenorrhoea • Endometriosis • History of gestational diabetes • History of high blood pressure during pregnancy • History of pelvic surgery, including caesarean delivery • Irregular, heavy or

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