



CONTRACEPTIVE OPTIONS



**Sexual
Health
Victoria**

Care
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Box Hill clinic opening hours

Mon – Fri	9am – 5pm
Sat & Sun Closed	Closed
Public Holidays	Closed

Melbourne clinic opening hours

Mon – Fri	9am – 5pm
Sat & Sun Closed	Closed
Public Holidays	Closed

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Sexual Health Victoria wish to acknowledge the young women from the Greater Dandenong young mum's playgroup. In 2016 they identified the need to develop this contraceptive resource. Due to their enthusiastic and generous feedback at the time of its development, it has proven to be a great resource for the community and it continues to be reprinted and updated.



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Read this first ...

The contraceptive implant and IUD (Intra-Uterine Device) are much better at protecting against pregnancy than other reversible methods of contraception.

Most people don't get side-effects.

Some side-effects may settle with time.

A change in bleeding (periods) can be a side effect of all the methods containing hormones. Treatment options are available.

Fertility (ability to become pregnant) goes back to normal quickly after stopping the implant, IUD, ring or the contraceptive pill, no matter how long it has been used. The injection may take longer.

Only condoms protect against STIs (Sexually Transmissible Infections) as well as pregnancy.

The word **'effective'** means how well the method works to prevent pregnancy for a typical user.

See your doctor, nurse or Aboriginal Health Worker/Practitioner before deciding on any method of contraception. Some health conditions or medications may make a method unsuitable for some people.



Contraceptive Implant



reversible



protects
against
pregnancy

99.95%

more than
99.95%
effective



lasts
up to
3 YEARS



does **NOT**
protect
against STI

A flexible rod that releases a hormone called progestogen. Inserted under the skin on the inside of the upper arm by a specially trained doctor or nurse.

Good to know...

- Protects against pregnancy very well.
- Long lasting. Don't have to remember to take something daily.
- Can be removed at any time and fertility returns quickly.
- Bleeding will change. It might be more often, at irregular (odd) times or not at all. It may make bleeding less painful.
- Safe if breastfeeding.



IUD (Intra-Uterine Device) Copper or Hormonal Types



reversible



protects
against
pregnancy

99.5% to
99.9%

More than
99.5%
effective



lasts
up to
5-10 YEARS*



does **NOT**
protect
against STI

A small plastic T-shaped device with a nylon string at the end. Inserted into the uterus (womb) by a specially trained doctor or nurse.

***Lasts for 5 to 10 years, depending on the type of IUD**

Good to know...

- Protects against pregnancy very well.
- Long lasting. Don't have to remember to take something daily.
- Can be removed at any time and fertility returns quickly.
- Hormonal IUD will make bleeding lighter, less painful or stop.
- Copper IUD may make bleeding heavier.
- Safe if breastfeeding.
- The Copper IUD can be used as emergency contraception. (see page 13)



Contraceptive Injection (Depo)



reversible



protects
against
pregnancy

96%

96%
effective



injection
every
12 weeks



does **NOT**
protect
against STI

**An injection given every
12 weeks containing a
hormone called progesterone.**

Good to know...

- Protects against pregnancy very well if injections are given every 12 weeks.
- Long lasting. Don't have to remember to take something daily.
- Bleeding will change. It might be more often, at irregular (odd) times or not at all. It may make bleeding less painful.
- Safe if breastfeeding.



Combined Oral Contraceptive Pill

usually called 'The Pill'



reversible



protects
against
pregnancy

93%

93%
effective



taken
daily



does **NOT**
protect
against STI

'The Pill' contains 2 hormones called oestrogen and progesterone. Need to remember to take the pill every day.

Good to know...

- Most packs have 21 hormone pills and 7 sugar pills or 24 hormone pills and 4 sugar pills.
- If taken more than 24 hours late, vomit or have severe diarrhoea, it might not work.
- It can be used to skip bleeding.
- It may make bleeding regular, shorter, lighter and less painful.
- It might make your skin (acne) better.
- Safe if breastfeeding and baby is over 6 weeks old.



Vaginal Ring



reversible



protects
against
pregnancy

93%

93%
effective



new ring
inserted
every
4 weeks*



does **NOT**
protect
against STI

**A small, flexible ring that contains
2 hormones called oestrogen and progesterone.
It sits inside the vagina for 3 weeks, slowly
releasing hormones into the body.**

*The ring is inserted by the user into the vagina and left in place for three weeks. It is then removed and a new ring inserted one week later.

Good to know...

- Don't have to remember to take something daily.
- It might not work if taken out during the 3 weeks.
- It may make bleeding regular, shorter, lighter and less painful.
- It can be used to skip bleeding.
- It might make skin (acne) better.
- Safe if breastfeeding and baby is over 6 weeks old.



Progestogen Only Pill

sometimes called the Mini Pill



reversible



protects
against
pregnancy

93%

93%
effective



taken
daily



does **NOT**
protect
against STI

The mini pill contains 1 hormone called progestogen. Need to remember to take the pill at the same time every day.

Good to know...

- There are two main types of progestogen only pill available.
- One type has 28 hormone pills and no sugar pills. This pill does not work if it is taken more than 3 hours late.
- The other type has 24 hormone pills and 4 sugar pills. This pill does not work if it is taken more than 24 hours late.
- The pill may not work if it was taken late or if vomiting or severe diarrhoea was experienced.
- It may make bleeding be more often, at irregular (odd) times or not at all.
- Safe if breastfeeding.



Condom

roll onto the penis



protects
against
pregnancy

88%

88%
effective



single use
only



protects
against STI

A very thin but strong latex or non-latex covering. It is rolled over a stiff (erect) penis before any skin to skin genital contact or sex. The condom comes in various sizes; it is not a one size fits all.

Good to know...

- Protects against STIs and pregnancy if used correctly every time.
- Non latex condoms are available for people with allergies.
- Oil based lubricant (e.g. Vaseline or baby oil) can damage latex condoms and should not be used.
- Always check the expiry date.
- Condoms can be bought at supermarkets, pharmacies, petrol stations and vending machines.
- Free condoms are sometimes available through a local youth service or community health centre.
- Safe if breastfeeding.



Condom

insert into the vagina



protects
against
pregnancy

79%

79%
effective



single use
only



protects
against STI

**A very thin but strong non-latex pouch
with a flexible ring at the end that is put
inside the vagina.**

Good to know...

- Protects against STIs and pregnancy if used correctly every time.
- Often needs to be bought online as not available at most shops.
- Need to practice putting it in the right way and making sure the penis goes inside the condom and not between the condom and vagina.
- Safe if breastfeeding.



Diaphragm



reversible



protects
against
pregnancy

82%

82%
effective



reusable



does **NOT**
protect
against STI

A silicone cup shaped diaphragm is available at pharmacies. It fits inside the vagina and covers the cervix (entrance to the womb).

Good to know...

- It is used with Caya® diaphragm gel.
- Comes in one size and it fits most users.
- Leave in for minimum of 6 hours after last ejaculation.
- It can be purchased without a prescription. It is a good idea to see a doctor or nurse to check it fits and is covering the cervix.
- Safe to use if breastfeeding but cannot be used in first 6 weeks after giving birth.



Fertility Awareness Based Methods



reversible



protects
against
pregnancy

76% to
93%

76 - 93%
effective



don't have
intercourse
on fertile
days*



does **NOT**
protect
against STI

**This uses the changes that happen
in the body every month as a guide to
know when it is safe or unsafe to have sex.**

*Don't have intercourse (vaginal sex) or alternatively use another method of contraception on fertile days to protect yourself against pregnancy.

Good to know...

- Need to be aware of the changes that happen in the body every day.
- Need to be taught properly so you can track the changes and make safe choices about protecting against pregnancy.
- It is hard to use if bleeding comes at odd times or if breastfeeding or close to starting menopause.
- Can use natural fertility awareness to help get pregnant.



Emergency Contraception (EC)

There are two types of EC, copper IUD and EC pill



emergency contraception



protects against pregnancy

85%

EC pill is 85% effective for each time it's used



don't delay*



does **NOT** protect against STI

A copper IUD or an EC pill can be used to help avoid getting pregnant if you have vaginal sex without contraception or the condom broke or slipped.

*Use EC as soon as possible, ideally within 24 hours of having vaginal sex, but it can still work within 120 hours (5 days).

Good to know...

- A copper IUD is a form of emergency contraception that protects best against pregnancy. It can also give long lasting protection against pregnancy if left in.
- The EC pill is sometimes known as the "morning after pill".
- The EC pill is not an abortion pill. If the EC pill doesn't work it is not known to harm the pregnancy.
- The EC pill can be bought from the pharmacy without a prescription.
- There are two types of EC pill available. Both types are considered safe to use if breastfeeding.



Permanent Contraception – Sterilisation



NOT
reversible



protects
against
pregnancy

99%

more than
99%
effective



permanent



does **NOT**
protect
against STI

Vasectomy

Where the tubes
that carry the sperm
are cut under local or
general anaesthetic.

Tubal Ligation

Where a clip is put
on the fallopian
tubes through a small
cut in the tummy under
general anaesthetic.

Good to know...

- Sterilisation protects against pregnancy very well and can't usually be reversed.
- Vasectomy and tubal ligation don't usually need an overnight stay in a hospital.
- Vasectomy takes at least 3 months to work.
- Tubal ligation starts working straight away.
- You might need to pay for sterilisation.

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