

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) and its *2008 Update*, 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.

Acknowledgements

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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 and the *2008 Update*. This can be accessed at <http://www.who.int/reproductive-health> or copies can be ordered from the address below.

Sample copies of the wheel can be ordered from:
Documentation Centre
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World Health Organization
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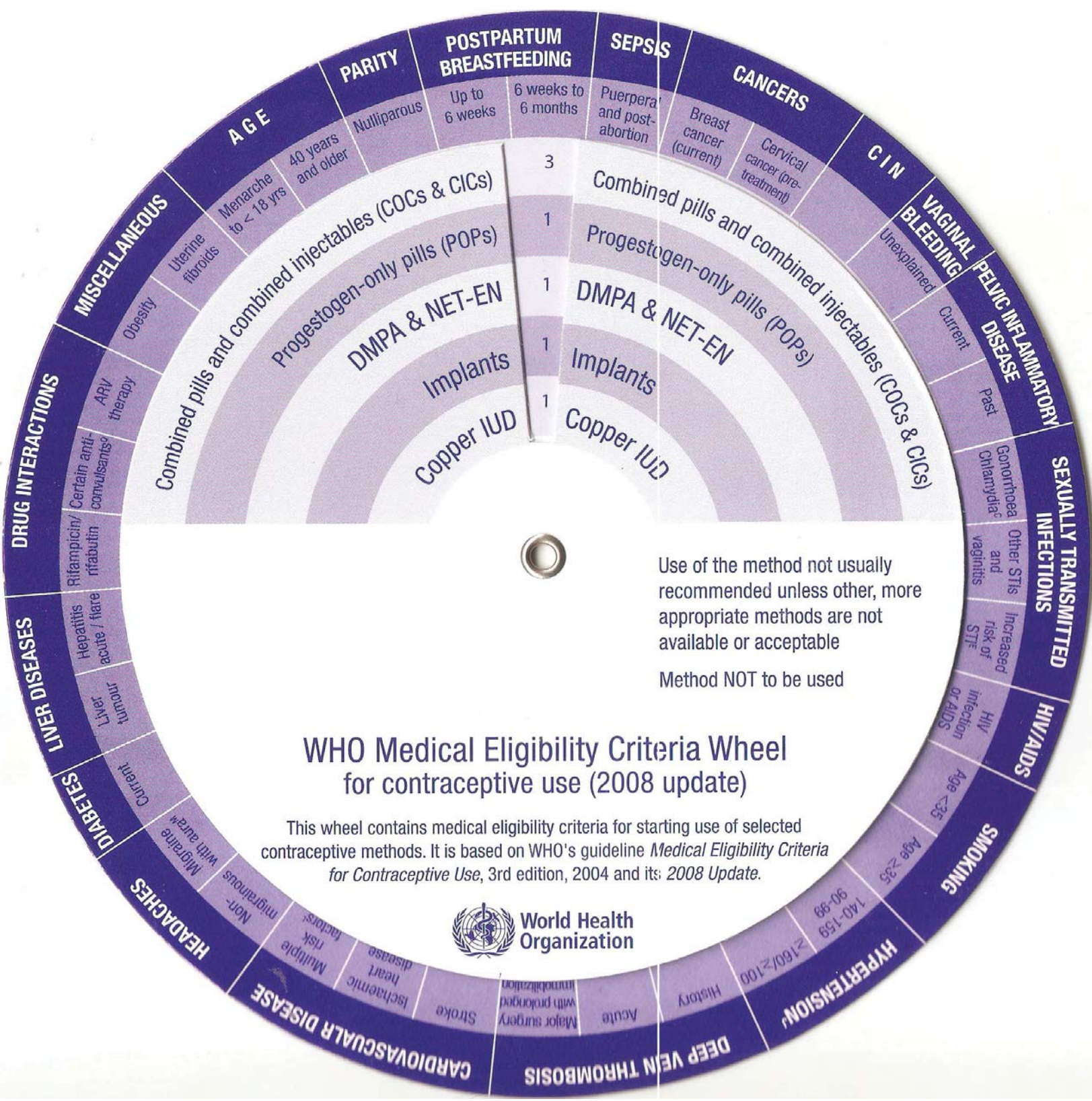
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**Conditions that are
category 1 and 2 for all methods (method can be used)**

Age 18–39	High risk for HIV	Schistosomiasis (bilharzia)
Anaemias, including sickle-cell disease and thalassaemia	History of gestational diabetes	Surgery without prolonged immobilization
Benign ovarian tumors, including cysts	History of high blood pressure during pregnancy	Taking antibiotics (excluding rifampicin/rifabutin)
Breast disease: family history, benign breast disease and undiagnosed mass	History of pelvic surgery, including caesarean section	Thyroid disorders
Depression	Irregular, heavy or prolonged menstrual bleeding	Tuberculosis (but if pelvic, cannot use IUD)
Dysmenorrhoea	Malaria	Uncomplicated valvular heart disease
Endometriosis	Mild cirrhosis	Varicose veins
Epilepsy	Past ectopic pregnancy	Viral hepatitis (carrier or chronic)
	Post-abortion (no sepsis)	

Notes to the conditions

- A** Can insert copper IUD < 48 hrs after delivery or \geq 4 weeks.
- B** If she had no subsequent pregnancy, IUD = 2.
- C** Or other forms of purulent cervicitis.
- D** If she develops this condition while using the IUD, she can keep using it during treatment.
- E** If at increased risk of STIs or HIV, advise condom use.
- F** If very high likelihood of exposure to gonorrhoea or chlamydia = 3.
- G** If on ARV Therapy = 2, except ritonavir-boosted ARVs = 3.
- H** AIDS, but not clinically well on ARV Therapy = 3 for insertion.
- I** COCs and heavy smoking = 4. CICS and light smoking = 2.
- J** If blood pressure cannot be measured, and she has no known history of hypertension, all methods can be used.
- K** The same category applies to controlled hypertension.
- L** Risk factors include: older age, smoking, diabetes, hypertension.
- M** To check if migraine has aura, ask: "Do you see a bright spot in your vision before bad headaches?"
- N** Migraine without aura and < 35 years old, COCs and CICS = 2. Migraine without aura and \geq 35 years old, COCs and CICS = 3.
- O** For complicated diabetes, or having diabetes for more than 20 years, COCs, CICS, DMPA and NET-EN = 3–4.
- P** COCs = 3; CICS = 2.
- Q** Phenytoin, carbamazepine, barbiturates, primidone, topiramate, oxcarbazepine. For lamotrigine COCs/CICS = 3. Other methods = 1.
- R** If she is not clinically well, IUD = 3.
- S** If the uterine cavity is distorted, cannot use IUD.
- T** > 45 yrs. = 2.
- U** If established on anticoagulant therapy = 2.
- V** DMPA = 1; NET-EN = 2.

Developed in collaboration with:



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