



# Effective Health Care

## Medical and Surgical Methods to Prevent Unintended Pregnancy in Women

### Nomination Summary Document

#### Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Medical and surgical methods to prevent unintended pregnancy in women was found to be addressed by a recent review on contraception failure in the United States and guidance from the CDC. Given that the existing review and guidance covers this nomination, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic.
  - Trussell J. Contraceptive failure in the United States. *Contraception*. 2011 May;83(5):397-404.
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. medical eligibility criteria for contraceptive use, 2010: adapted from the World Health Organization Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use, 4th edition. *MMWR*. 2010;59. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5904a1.htm>

#### Topic Description

**Nominator:** Organization

**Nomination Summary:** The nominator is interested in the most effective method for preventing unintended pregnancy in women.

**Staff-Generated PICO:**

**Population(s):** Women of reproductive age; subgroups include adolescents and women over 35 years old.

**Intervention(s):** Contraceptive devices, hormonal contraceptives, and surgical contraceptive methods.

**Comparator(s):** Barrier contraceptives (e.g., male and female condoms, cervical caps, and diaphragms); hormonal contraceptives (e.g., oral, transdermal, or injectables); long-acting reversible contraception (e.g., intrauterine devices, intrauterine systems, and contraceptive implants); and surgical contraceptive methods (e.g., tubal ligation and vasectomy).

**Outcome(s):** Potential benefits, including improved family planning and decision making, decreased health risks to women, improved resource utilization, reduction of unintended or mistimed pregnancies, improved contraception adherence, and reduction of late entry into prenatal care. Potential risks/harms, contraception-related health risks and side effects.

**Key Questions from Nominator:** 1. What is the comparative effectiveness of medical and surgical methods to prevent unintended pregnancy in women?

2. What is the comparative effectiveness of:
  - a. Various contraceptive devices, including barrier contraceptives (e.g., male and female condoms, cervical caps, and diaphragms); hormonal contraceptives (e.g., oral, transdermal, or injectables); long-acting reversible contraception (e.g., intrauterine devices, intrauterine systems, and contraceptive implants);
  - b. Various surgical approaches, including tubal ligation and vasectomy; and non-surgical, irreversible sterilization systems

## Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Topic was found to be addressed by a 2011 review titled *Contraception Failure in the United States*, which compares medical versus surgical methods of contraception. In addition, the CDC produces the *U.S. Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use* to provide guidance on method efficacy, which is based on expert discussion of systematically reviewed evidence.