



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

Health Update

Please deliver a copy of the accompanying alert to each provider in your organization.

Thank you

Questions regarding this update may be directed to the office of:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH
Health Officer

Clark County Public Health

(360) 397-8412

Please Distribute

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for specific incident for situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

HEALTH UPDATE

8 February 2010

The purpose of this update is to inform physicians and other family planning providers that some of their patients may be receiving contraceptives through participation in the Oregon Health & Science University Nurse Family Partnership Contraceptive Study.

Details:

The Clark County Public Health Department is participating in a research study to determine the effectiveness of a family planning intervention that involves home distribution of hormonal contraceptives to women at-risk for unintended pregnancy. The sponsoring academic institution is Oregon Health & Science University.

The study will enroll participants through the Nurse Family Partnership program. The NFP program provides home visits for women anticipating a first birth and follows these women through birth and until their first-born child is two years-old. Inclusion criteria for participation include English or Spanish speaking (or both), enrolled in the NFP program and 32 weeks or less gestation. NFP nurses will obtain written consent for the study as well as consent for family planning services.

The study will be a randomized clinical trial. After consent and enrollment in the study, OHSU research staff will randomize participants to receive either the usual NFP intervention or the enhanced NFP intervention that includes contraceptive administration and distribution. The usual NFP intervention includes services focused on pregnancy planning and contraceptive advice, with the prescription and dispensing of contraceptives provided through the women's primary care settings. The primary difference between routine NFP care and the enhanced intervention is the administration and distribution of hormonal contraception in the home. For participants in the enhanced intervention, beginning after delivery, the nurses will offer a choice of a three-month supply of combination oral contraceptives, progestin-only oral contraceptives, contraceptive patches, the contraceptive vaginal ring or a depot medroxyprogesterone injection. The nurses will follow guidelines and standing orders approved by the Health Officer when providing contraceptives. During frequent home visits, the NFP nurse will continue to counsel the participants while providing additional supplies of contraceptives or administering the depot medroxyprogesterone injections for up to two years after delivery. By phone or through subsequent visits, the nurse will address any adverse reactions or other participant concerns and will provide refills or an alternative hormonal method as necessary. At any time, participants can decline to receive contraceptive supplies or injections.

We understand that at least some of the NFP clients will already have primary care providers, and that their physicians/health care providers might be concerned that this intervention could interfere with the participants' medical homes as well as interfere with patient safety. To prevent this from happening, we have developed a two-sided letter (attached) that the nurses will use to document the contraceptives they are distributing, and they will ask the participants to take these letters to their health care providers. One side of the letter will have the documentation; the other side will contain a description of the study. In addition, when training the nurses on the protocol, we have encouraged them to contact participants' health care providers to update them on their patients' contraceptive use. Each site, including the medical directors, will ensure that the NFP nurses have the back-up medical support they need to help

patients use the contraceptives they distribute safely and effectively. NFP nurses will have immediate access to expert medical advice through their medical directors when problems with contraceptive use arise. In addition, the clinical protocols will require NFP nurses to report any adverse events to their site medical director.

As Principal Investigator, I will be happy to speak with physicians and healthcare providers who have any questions or concerns. You can contact me at the Clark County Public Health Department at 360-397-8412 or alan.melnick@clark.wa.gov.

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH
Clark County Health Officer



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Date _____

Dear Physician/Health Care provider,

I am a participant in the Nurse Family Partnership contraceptive study described on the attached/other side of this letter. On _____ (date), the NFP nurse provided me with the following contraceptives:

	Amount	NFP Nurse Name/Initials
Pills – CHC*		
<input type="checkbox"/> Alesse		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lo-Estrin		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lo- Ovral		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ortho-Tricyclen- Lo		
Pills - Progesterone only		
<input type="checkbox"/> Micronor		
Other CHC*		
<input type="checkbox"/> CVR Nuva-Ring		
<input type="checkbox"/> Transdermal Patch –Ortho Evra		
Injection	Site given	NFP Nurse Name/Initials
<input type="checkbox"/> DepoProvera IM		

* CHC = Combined Hormonal Contraceptives

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