

Vomiting after administration of an oral hormonal contraceptive or emergency contraceptive pill can result in a loss of effectiveness and a repeat dose may be required. The need for a repeat dose following vomiting is related to the time to absorption of the hormonal constituents in the small intestine: ethinylestradiol/ estradiol and progestogens in the combined pill; progestogens (levonorgestrel or norethisterone) in the progestogen only pill; levonorgestrel or ulipristal acetate in emergency contraceptive pills.

Previous advice on the timeframe between administration of the oral hormonal contraceptive and the time at which vomiting occurs which necessitated a repeat hormonal dose has now been replaced by a more conservative, straightforward recommendation. Previously, a repeat dose was recommended if vomiting occurred within 2 or 3 hours of administration depending on the preparation. This has been replaced by a universal recommendation to repeat a dose of either a combined hormonal or progestogen only pill or ulipristal acetate or levonorgestrel emergency contraception should vomiting occur within 3 hours of administration.



familyplanningallianceaustralia.org.au

The Medical Advisory Committee of Family Planning Alliance Australia is comprised of senior medical educators, senior medical officers and medical directors of the member family planning organisations. The Clinical Reference Group of the Medical Advisory Committee exists as a means to review current clinical practice and provide evidence based recommendations for use by sexual and reproductive health practitioners where clinical guidance is lacking.

© Family Planning Alliance Australia. March 2022

Family Planning Alliance Australia has taken every care to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate and up-to-date at the time of being published. As information and knowledge is constantly changing, readers are strongly advised to confirm that the information complies with present research, legislation and policy guidelines. FPAA accepts no responsibility for difficulties that may arise as a result of an individual acting on this information and any recommendations it contains.

State / Territory sexual health and family planning organisations



Western Australia
SHQ (Sexual Health Quarters)
shq.org.au



Northern Territory
Family Planning Welfare
Association of NT
fpwnt.com.au



South Australia
SHINE SA
shinesa.org.au



Queensland
True
true.org.au



ACT
Sexual Health and Family
Planning ACT
shfpact.org.au



New South Wales
Family Planning NSW
fpnsw.org.au



Victoria
Sexual Health Victoria
shvic.org.au



Tasmania
Family Planning Tasmania
fpt.asn.au