

Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health COVID-19 Coalition

Shortage of Norethisterone (NET) pills in Australia: Advice for GPs

NET pill shortages: dates unavailable

COMBINED PILLS

NORIMIN-1: 24 Dec 2019 to 2 Dec 2020

NORIMIN: 26 Mar 2020 to 17 Nov 2020

BREVINOR: 26 Mar 2020 to 11 Nov 2020

BREVINOR-1: 27 Mar 2020 to 16 Oct 2020

NORINYL-1: 30 Jul 2020 to 28 Aug 2020

PROGESTOGEN-ONLY PILL

NORIDAY: 9 Jul 2020 to 15 Nov 2020

*Dates advised by TGA may be subject to change.

<https://apps.tga.gov.au/Prod/msi/Search/Details/norethisterone>

Explore patient's needs and preferences

- This includes (but is not limited to) non-contraceptive benefits, tolerable and intolerable side-effects, affordability and effectiveness
- Raise awareness of the range of contraceptives, including long-acting reversible contraception (LARC; IUDs/implant), contraceptive injection, and the vaginal ring
- Include information about the method's risks, benefits, side-effect profile, cost and effectiveness

Alternatives to NET pills

PBS LISTED

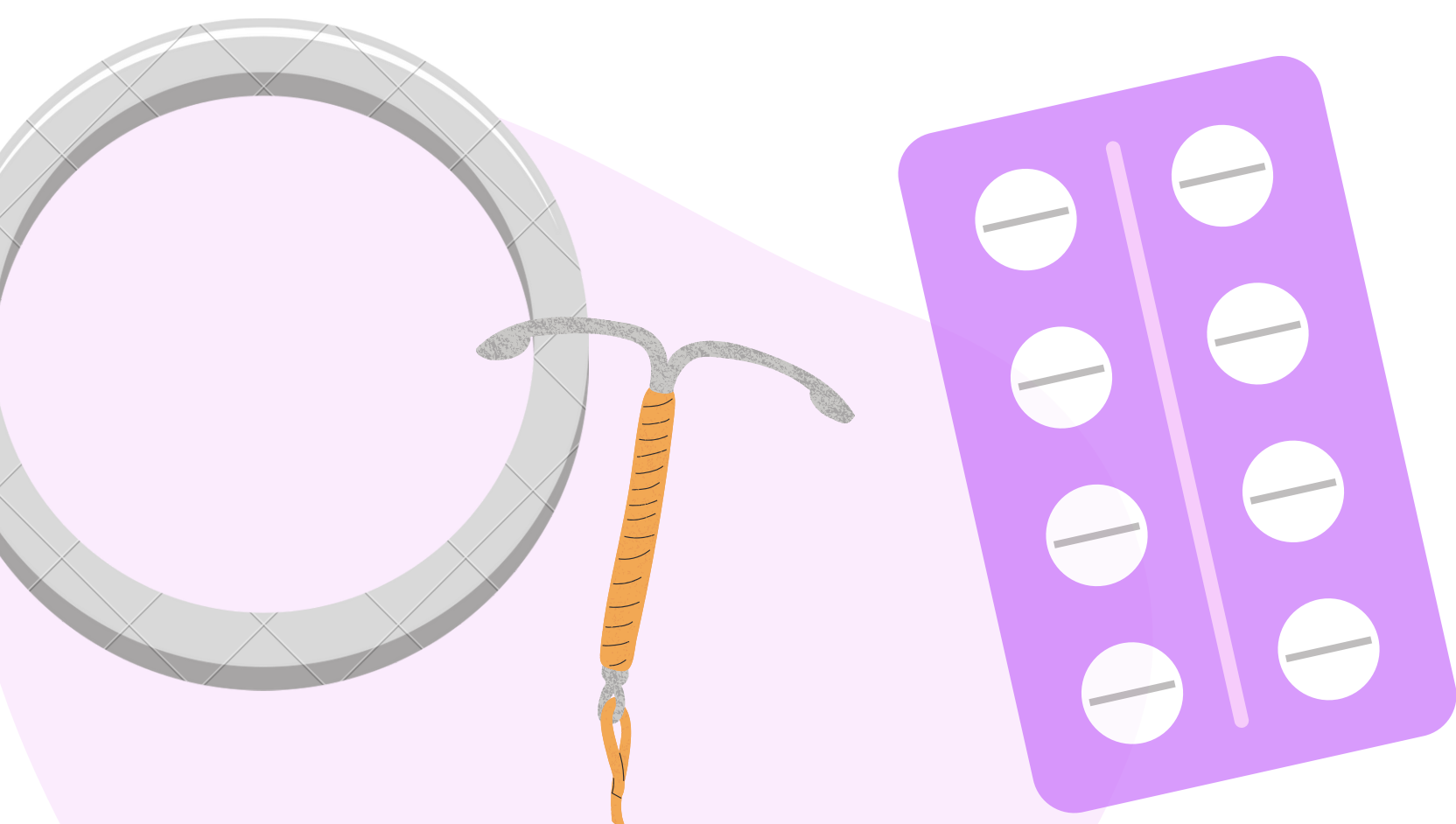
- Combined levonorgestrel (LNG) pills (similar side-effect profile to combined NET pills, likely to benefit acne, similar reduction in menstrual blood loss)
- LARC methods (LNG IUDs, implant) and contraceptive injection are effective, longer-term alternatives
- The progestogen only pill (mini-pill) Microlut in place of Noriday

NON-PBS LISTED

- Combined pills - insufficient evidence to recommend one over another
- Vaginal ring
- Copper IUD

Support the change

- Support the switch from a NET pill depending on safety, effectiveness, benefits, affordability and potential side-effects
- Provide advice on safe and effective contraceptive choices and explore compatibility with the patient's specific needs and preferences
- Consider non-contraceptive benefits including reduction in menstrual blood loss and acne control: A Cochrane review indicates no pill type is superior for acne
- Refer patients who show an interest in LARC to a LARC provider



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