



Family Planning Alliance Australia (FPAA) statement – Repeat dosing of oral hormonal contraceptives after vomiting

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the oral hormonal contraceptive and the time at which vomiting occurs which necessitated a repeat hormonal dose has now been replaced by a more conservative, straightforward recommendation.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 This has been replaced by a universal recommendation to repeat a dose of either a combined hormonal or progestogen only pill or ulipristal acetate or levonorgestrel emergency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.