

Roadmap to Female Condoms

Accessing and Dispensing Female Condoms
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What are female condoms?

Female condoms are receptive partner initiated, dual protection devices used by women, men and transgender individuals. They are designed for internal use and may be referred to as "internal condoms" by some.

In the United States, FC2 is the only FDA approved female condom available, although internationally there are 5 other types of female condoms.

The Female Condom/Reality was introduced to the U.S. market in 1993 by the Female Health Company (FHC).

In 2014 a new package design was unveiled and in 2015 the FDA announced consideration of declassification of female condoms. FC2 is about 95% effective in preventing pregnancy if used correctly.



Provider options

Providers are key to education and awareness

- ▶ Covered under ACA as an over the counter contraceptive. Clients should not incur co-pays or cost sharing. Providers can write a prescription for FC2.
- ▶ On the state Medi-Cal formulary: "Female: maximum of six (6) condoms per client, per any 27-day period, any provider"
- ▶ Attend a Boot Camp- Upon completion contact Phillip Phan pphan@ph.lacounty.gov & request FC2 for your program

**if you do not receive DHSP funding

Provider Options

- ▶ L.A. Condom.com (MSM targeted campaign)- webpage has listing of clinics and sites that provide FC2.
- ▶ Encourage medical assistants, advice nurse, health educators etc. to conduct demonstrations for clients
- ▶ Assess clients for appropriateness (e. High risk but unsuccessful with other forms of prevention, allergic to latex, male partner experiencing ED)
- ▶ Use line items to purchase FC2 through vendors such as TAG or GPC

Consumer Options

- ▶ Local family planning clinics (CCH/ PPLA, ELAWC/ JWCH- CCH) **
- ▶ L.A. County Hotline [800-758-0880](tel:800-758-0880) **
- ▶ Medi- Cal patients- Well woman visit **
- ▶ <http://lacondom.com> L.A. Condom.com (L.A. County MSM targeted campaign)- webpage has listing of locations that provide male and female condoms **
- ▶ Walgreens stores/Walgreens.com
- ▶ Local adult stores

Challenges

- ▶ Challenges in obtaining FCs exist, but are lessening as more access points open up
- ▶ Lack of awareness by consumers, providers and health educators
- ▶ Perpetuating myths and mis-information
- ▶ Providers reflecting their indifference or dislike to patients/ clients
- ▶ Lack of clinics/ programs stocking FCs
- ▶ Cost barriers- .82
- ▶ Walgreens has been committed to carrying FC2 in store and online since 2011. Per the FHC Director of Sales, if they are not on the shelf the store the store will obtain them for the consumer within 24 hours.
- ▶ FHC is embarking on marketing campaign in the U.S.

Pit Stop

- ▶ "But the market for them is stuck in a vicious circle: Female condoms cost more to make than male condoms -- manufacturers (none of them large corporations) can't afford high-volume production to bring the per-condom price down -- costs remain high -- demand stays low due to unfamiliarity and high price."

Tetlikowski, J., Forbes, A. TheBody.com (2014)



Benefits

- ▶ Female/receptive partner initiated STI protection & contraception
- ▶ Can be used with PrEP as a back up or if PrEP is used inconsistently, or until optimum levels are achieved
- ▶ Nitrile material benefits clients with latex allergy
- ▶ Non constrictive design may assist males with erectile dysfunction
- ▶ Design may increase stimulation for some users
- ▶ Provides increased coverage/protection against STI transmitted via skin-skin contact
- ▶ May be used for oral and penetrative activity


