#### GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND CONTRACEPTION

# Oral contraceptives

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Practitioners are well aware how difficult it is to remember the various strengths of the oestrogens and progestogens in the many different oral contraceptive pills. The chart given below has been useful in general practice for many years. For full details it is important to refer to the instructions of the manufacturer.

In most cases the oestrogens and progestogens are in a fixed ratio. In two cases the proportions change after a number of days. Four packs have 28 pills seven of which are inert. Five packs are produced under two names.

#### **DEPUTISING SERVICES**

## B.M.A. Deputising Service in Sheffield 1970

Seventy-four per cent of Sheffield general practitioners and 78 per cent of those in Nottingham used a deputising service in 1970. In each city the deputising service was used by about 80 per cent of single-handed general practitioners, 90 per cent of doctors in two-doctor practices and 60 per cent of those in partnerships of three or more.

The Sheffield deputising service handled 15,988 new calls in the year, an average of 106 per subscribing doctor, and in addition made 339 revisits. The median number of calls handled for single-handed doctors was 98, for those in two-doctor practices 95, and for those in partnerships of three or more 75. The growth of group practices has not eliminated the demand for deputising services.

Sixty-six per cent of consultations were with deputies who were primarily hospital doctors, 20 per cent with a full-time deputy, 11 per cent with deputies who were primarily general practitioners, and three per cent with switchboard staff who were also trained nurses. The deputies had been qualified, on average, for eight years. Seventy-two per cent of patients attended were seen within one hour of receipt of the call.

Calls handled by the deputising service represented approximately one per cent of all the subscribers' consultations, five per cent of their home visits, and half their calls between midnight and 07.00 hours. At this level of activity the concept of 'personal doctoring' was not threatened.

### REFERENCE

Williams, B. T., Dixon, R. A. & Knowelden, J. (1973). British Medical Journal, 1, 593-599.

Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners, 1973, 23, 676

	suə80	<i>8</i> u		Prog	estogen	Progestogens in mg					
Pill	Oesiro	u uị	əı	 əı	910193			Į2	201	ą	Basic cost of pack(s) in pence
	Mestranol	Ethinyl Oestradiol	NorethisteroN	Norethisteror Acetate	Megestrol Ac	Lynestrenol	Ethynodiod Diacetate	Norethynodro	Inert substan	Pills per pac	(Manufacturers' wholesale prices)
Anovlar 21'	0.1	0.05		4				2.5		282	32 29 20 21 21
('Enavid-E')	0.075					,		, w		888	29, 100 £1:31 57
Demulen	0.0 0.1	ý					0.5	^		3 77 7	30, 30 £1.29 16 16
Eugynon 30 'Eugynon 50 'Eugynon 50 '	., .	0.03					<u>.</u>		0.5	777	30
Femulen '  Gynovlar 21 '  Godonlar 21 '		0.05		. n			0.5			8 7 7	24, 3×28, 67 27 30, 500, 66.24
Lyndiol 2.5	0.075	3	36	<b>1</b>		2.5				122	39, 300 ±3 ±4
Micronor 'Minolan' 'Minovlar E. D.'		0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	6.5			2.5				2228	27 19 20
Norinyl-1	0.02		1,0						+	7,8	29, 6×21, £1·72
Norinyl 1/28 . 521	0.05		 1						+	9 8	31
('Norlestrin 21') ('Norlestrin') ('Orlest 28')		0.05 0.05 0.05		2.5					-	100 28	30, 3×21, 85 100, £1·31 20, 3×28, 44
Ortho-Novin 1/50	0.05		-						+	21	
· Ortho-Novin 1/80 ·	80·0		_							21	Unipak 23 Pushpak 29 Dialpak 29
Ortho-Novin 2 mg.	0.08		2			,				22	
20,	5/0.0	0.05				ĵ.,	_		0.5	777	30
'Ovulen 1 mg. ''Metrulen-M' 'Serial 28' ∫ 16	 - 0				-					7 17 28	29, 50 69, 250 £3·05 33
$\begin{cases} 3 \\ 7 \end{cases}$		0.05			- 4				+	21	21, 3×21, 43