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3 Title: Behind the Counter Hormonal Contraception Devices

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5 Introduced by: Alangoya Tezel, for the Medical Student Section

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7 Original Author: Erin Currey and Micaela Stevenson

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9 Referred To: Reference Committee E

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11 House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

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14 Whereas, contraceptive vaginal rings and contraceptive patches have been available for
15 almost 20 years via prescription, and

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17 Whereas, contraceptive rings and patches are documented to have relatively few side
18 effects, and

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20 Whereas, these contraceptive methods have been linked to reduced rates of ovarian and
21 endometrial cancer, and

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23 Whereas, these devices are effective forms of contraception with failure rates comparable to
24 those of combined oral contraceptive pills, and

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26 Whereas, the United States continues to have the highest rates of unintended pregnancy in
27 the industrialized world, with 54.7 percent of all pregnancies unplanned in 2011, and

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29 Whereas, unintended pregnancies are associated with delays in initiating prenatal care,
30 reduced likelihood of breastfeeding, increased risk of maternal depression, and increased risk of
31 physical violence during pregnancy, and

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33 Whereas, reducing the unintended pregnancy rate is a national priority reflected in the
34 Healthy People 2020 goal, and

35
36 Whereas, unintended pregnancies disproportionately affect low-income women, Black
37 women, and women who have not completed high school, and

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39 Whereas, cost of medical appointments and access to physicians is commonly cited as
40 barriers to receiving adequate contraceptive care, and

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42 Whereas, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) are in favor of
43 making all hormonal contraceptives available over the counter as stated in committee opinion 788,
44 and

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46 Whereas, MSMS has already supported the ACOG Committee Opinion 544, to make oral
47 contraceptives available over the counter; therefore be it

48 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
49 Committee policy to allow contraceptive vaginal rings and contraceptive patches to be available
50 behind the counter.
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53 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: Resolutions only requesting new or revised MSMS
54 or AMA policy - \$500

Relevant MSMS Policy:

Oral Contraceptives Available Over-the-Counter

MSMS supports the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' committee opinion 544 which supports making oral contraceptives available as over the counter medication. (Res95-16)

Over the Counter Contraception (The Morning After Pill)

MSMS supports the concept of making the "morning after" contraceptive pill an over the counter medication. (Res6--06A)

Relevant AMA Policy:

Over-the-Counter Access to Oral Contraceptives D-75.995

Our AMA:

1. Encourages manufacturers of oral contraceptives to submit the required application and supporting evidence to the US Food and Drug Administration for the Agency to consider approving a switch in status from prescription to over-the-counter for such products.
2. Encourages the continued study of issues relevant to over-the-counter access for oral contraceptives.

Sources:

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2. Trussell J, Aiken ARA, Micks E, Guthrie KA. Efficacy, safety, and personal considerations. In: Hatcher RA, Nelson AL, Trussell J, Cwiak C, Cason P, Policar MS, Edelman A, Aiken ARA, Marrasso J, Kowal D, eds. *Contraceptive technology*. 21st ed. New York, NY: Ayer Company Publishers, Inc., 2018
3. Burkman, R. T. *Contraception: Transdermal contraceptive patches*
4. Access to contraception. Committee Opinion No. 615. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. *Obstet Gynecol* 2015;125:250-5
5. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2019). Over-the-Counter Access to Hormonal Contraception: ACOG Committee Opinion, Number 788. *Obstet. Gynecol*, 134, e96-e105
6. Hislop, David. Michigan State Medical Society. (2016) Resolution 95, Over the Counter Available Oral Contraceptives
7. Family Planning. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Access February 22, 2021. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/family-planning>