

Qualitative explorations of the factors influencing the selection of the copper intrauterine device as a method of emergency contraception

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Unintended pregnancy remains a significant issue in the United States. Despite increasing access to oral emergency contraception, the rates of unintended pregnancy and abortion have failed to decrease. The copper intrauterine device (copper IUD) is both a highly effective method of long-term contraception and emergency contraception when inserted within 120 hours of unprotected intercourse. However, the use of the copper IUD remains low among women in the United States. At present, research focuses on oral emergency contraception and on the individual characteristics of women and their use of emergency contraception. This dissertation explores the factors influencing a woman's emergency contraceptive method selection, and the impact of health care providers and male partners. Three separate articles are presented which were submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals.