

Appendix 1

Allocation rules applied in the analysis

1. Rules about length of use	
1.1	A woman was allowed to be recorded with only one COC group at a certain time
1.2	The length of a certain COC use was determined by the DDD. In case of no further prescription, the woman is allocated to "previous user" at the expire of the prescription
1.3	If there was a gap of <4 weeks from one prescription to the next prescription of the same product, this gap is added to the duration of use.
1.4	The 1.3 rule implies for principal statistical reasons that the other exposure lines were prolonged with 28 days in order not to condition the allocation to future events
1.5	If a woman before the end of a certain OC was recorded with a new prescription of a new or the same type, the length of the two prescriptions were added if the overlap was 28 days or less. Otherwise the new prescription was valid from the cash day
1.6	If a woman changed from one type to another, the first 28 days after the switch was excluded (exposure time as well as VTE events). These 28 days began at the end of the former prescription
1.7	If a woman was prescribed a new COC within 28 days <u>before</u> the end of another OC, the exclusion period of 28 days began at the prescription date of the new product.
1.8	The length of current use was defined as the sum of continuous prescriptions with less than four weeks of pause.
2. Combination COCs trump POP	
2.1	Contemporary* prescription of COCs and progestogen only pills was recorded under the former group.
3. High DDD trumps low DDD	
3.1	If more subgroups in any of the four main groups were prescribed simultaneously, the subgroup with the highest DDD was the valid one. The other subgroups were deleted.
3.2	If two products with the same DDD were prescribed simultaneously, the lowest generation was chosen. If same generation, the lowest progestogen number was chosen.
3.3	If a combination OC was prescribed simultaneously with POP with higher DDD, the woman was allocated to POP after the expire of the combined OC.
4. Hormone IUD	
4.1	When a hormone-IUD was prescribed it trumped all other treatments. The DDD of a hormone-IUD was set to 36 months, unless any prescription of any OC occurred within these three years. In the latter situation use of hormone-IUD ended at the new prescription.
4.2	If no contraception was prescribed within three years, the woman was censored at this time, due to uncertainty of her continued use.
4.3	Hormone-IUD trumped any other OC prescribed simultaneously (but not contemporarily)*.
5. Emergency contraception (EC)	
5.1	EC was considered to have influence through 28 days from prescription.
5.2	Contemporary prescription of EC and any other group was recorded under EC. When the EC expired, the woman was (re)allocated to the other group. This rule was applied even if the prescriptions were simultaneous.
5.3	If EC was prescribed to a woman on hormone-IUD, the woman was considered to have her hormone-IUD removed before the EC.

*) **Contemporary = during the same period. Simultaneously = at the same day**