December 15, 2008

Update from OCs OTC Working Group

Dear Working Group Members,

Some of you may have seen the news last week about the pilot project in London, where oral contraceptives will be provided behind-the-counter after women are screened by a pharmacist. It appears that there will be some evaluation of this project, and we'll try to get more information about that as it moves forward. Links to an article from the BBC and to several other articles on the pilot project follow. Perhaps one of the more interesting lines is in the TimesOnline piece, which says, speaking of the pharmacies selected for the pilot, “They will also be able to provide chlamydia testing and possibly other types of long-acting contraception such as interuterine [sic] devices.”

We also wanted to share with you the good news that the Hewlett Foundation has awarded the working group a 2-year planning grant, which will allow us to move forward with some of our planned activities. The steering committee will be meeting in January, and we’ll let you know as soon as the next working group meeting is scheduled (likely in the spring of 2009).

With best wishes for the holiday season,
Dan

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BBC (12/10/08) Pill to be given out by chemists
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7773894.stm

Daily Mail (10/12/08) Teenage girls will be allowed to buy the Pill without a GP check-up
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1093268/Teenage-girls-allowed-buy-Pill-GP-check-up.html

Google/Press Association (10/12/08) Pharmacy Pill plan to go ahead
http://www.google.com/hostednews/ukpress/article/ALeqM5juTmJw-uNwyNZhXF4G9gvNCMFx2g

Independent (10/12/08) Women to be offered the Pill without prescription

Metro (10/12/08) Pharmacy Pill plan to go ahead
http://www.metro.co.uk/news/article.html?Pharmacy_Pill_plan_to_go_ahead&in_article_id=439704&in_page_id=34&in_a_source=

Mirror (10/12/08) Girls to get contraceptive pill without seeing a GP
http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/tm_headline=girls‐to‐get‐contraceptive‐pill‐without‐seeing‐a‐gp%26method=full%26objectid=20959707%26siteid=115875‐name_page.html

Scotsman (10/12/08) Trial plan to give out Pill without GP permission goes ahead
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/health/Trial--plan-to-give.4777349.jsp>

Telegraph (10/12/08) Pill without prescription for teens

Telegraph (10/12/08) The Pill: A history of oral contraceptives
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/3697910/The-Pill-A‐history-of-oral-contraceptives.html

Times (10/12/08) Trial of Pill with no prescription in two London pilot schemes
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/health/article5315275.ece

Sky News (10/12/08) Women to get the Pill without GPs
Metro (9/12/08) Chemists to offer Pill free over the counter
http://www.metro.co.uk/news/article.html?Chemists_to_offer_Pill_free_over_the_counter&in_article_id=439031&in_page_id=34&in_a_source