



Information about FC2 Female Condom[®] and Its Use.

An affordable second generation Female Condom that offers barrier protection against STIs including HIV and unwanted pregnancies for both men and women is now available.

History:

Developed in the 1990's, the FC Female Condom (FC1) is a strong, soft, transparent polyurethane sheath inserted into the vagina before sexual intercourse, providing protection against both unwanted pregnancy and STIs. It forms a barrier between the penis and the vagina, cervix and external genitalia. The FC Female Condom plays an integral role in the fight against HIV/AIDS and has been integrated into safer sex campaigns in over 90 countries as an effective form of barrier protection.

Today:

FC2 Female Condom

After extensive research and development the Female Health Company (FHC) has developed a second generation FC Female Condom known as FC2. FC2, made from nitrile polymer, is very similar to the polyurethane Female Condom (FC1). The new material allows for lower cost in production and therefore lower prices while maintaining the same level of protection.



FC2 Female Condom Features

- FC2 covers the vagina, cervix and part of the genitalia, offering barrier protection to bacteria and viruses, including HIV.
- FC2 is pre-lubricated with a silicone based lubricant for comfort, ease of insertion and smooth movement during intercourse. Additional oil-based or water-based lubrication may also be used.
- FC2 provides additional emotional comfort, sense of security and control.
- FC2 may be inserted ahead of time and does not need to be taken out immediately after intercourse, so as not to interrupt sexual spontaneity.
- FC2 has an inner ring which helps with insertion and keeps the female condom in place.
- A soft rolled ring remains on the outside of the vagina and covers the area around the opening of the vagina (the vulva) affording greater protection. It can prove pleasurable for both men and women.
- FC2 is not tight or constricting and may improve sensation.
- FC2 does not require a prescription, fitting, or the intervention of a health care provider.
- Studies show that FC2 acceptability is comparable to FC1.
- FC2 may be used as a vehicle to help empower women to protect themselves from STIs, including HIV and unintended pregnancy.

MATERIAL

FC2 is made from nitrile polymer which is a synthetic rubber. It has been tested to ISO 10993 which includes tests for biocompatibility, cytotoxicity, mutagenicity, sensitization, irritation and systematic toxicity.

Nitrile polymer is non allergenic and forms an effective barrier against HIV.

FC2 can be used with alternative lubricants like oils and greases and warms quickly like the first generation Female Condom (FC1).

PERFORMANCE

FC2 studies show it performs in the same manner as FC1.

TESTING

Each FC2 is 100% leak tested electrostatically for holes as part of its manufacturing and quality assurance.

FC2 REGISTRATION

FC2 has received the CE Mark in Europe and is recommended by WHO for purchases by UN agencies.

FHC is in process of registering FC2 with the United States Federal Drug Administration (USFDA) and other countries as required.

PRODUCT SPECIFICATION AND DIMENSIONS

FC2 is strong, soft, and transparent comprising a sheath that is 17 centimetres long (about 6.5 inches - similar length of a male condom) with a flexible inner ring and rolled outer ring.

COSTS

FC2 is currently priced more than 30% less than FC1. As manufacturing costs are sensitive to volume, increased distribution of FC2 will lower prices even further.

TRANSITION PLANS

FHC is expanding production in Malaysia and is currently replacing FC1 with FC2 for all markets as regulatory aspects are met.

FHC offers programming support to ensure successful introduction of FC2 in your country or region.

For more information on programming FC2 contact our Global Public Sector Team (GPST):

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