Pathway (4) for irregular/prolonged bleeding with Implanon and Depo-Provera

Woman presents to GP with irregular/prolonged bleeding

Implanon (3yr life)

Unacceptable bleeding pattern develops during 3yr life

Develops in first 2 years

• Reassurance & sexual health history / chlamydia / smear / exclude pregnancy in first few months
• Menstrual diary
• POP eg Cerazette 6-8 wks or COCP eg 6-8wks Merclon / Marvelon if not contraindicated

Determines and/or symptoms acceptable → NO

• Reassurance & sexual health history / chlamydia / change method after 6mths
• Removal of Implanon OR leave in situ & continue to add POP or COCP
• Consider endometrial pathology in older women

Continue

Develops after 2 years

First injection 4 or more weeks ago

See Box 1

Prolonged bleeding continues / recurs

See Box 2

Bleeding continues

See Box 2 or 3

After several consecutive injections at correct intervals

Sexual history / examination / chlamydia / smear (within local screening programme) exclude pregnancy if late with injections

Negative results

Sexual history / examination / chlamydia / smear (within local screening programme) exclude pregnancy if late with injections

Positive results

See Box 1

Prolonged bleeding continues / recurs

See Box 2

Bleeding continues

See Box 2 or 3

Box 1
• Give 2nd injection, reassure & offer appointment for 3rd injection 8-11 wks after 2nd injection
• Consider endometrial pathology in older women

Box 2
• Add COCP/POP if not contraindicated for 4-6 wks (see Implanon pathway)
• Offer appointment 8-11 wks after last injection

Box 3
• If bleeding continues to be unacceptable having followed pathways for 4-5 injections change method.
• Consider endometrial pathology in older women

Last Depo less than 8 wks ago

Treat & continue Depo as required

Last Depo more than 8 wks ago

See Box 2 and/or 3

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