



DIAPHRAGM UPDATES

Semina diaphragm availability



The Semina diaphragm is a multi-size coil-spring silicone diaphragm previously available in Brazil. [Semina Ind. e Comércio Ltda.](#), the product manufacturer, confirmed in late October that distributors are out of stock.

They had originally planned to manufacture new product in July 2020, but their production timeline has been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. They anticipate that production will resume in early 2021. Semina users who wish to receive an update when the diaphragm becomes available can reach out to the manufacturer [here](#).

INTERNAL/FEMALE CONDOM UPDATES

Internal/female condom colour preference

Although coloured and scented external/male condoms have been available globally for many years, internal/female condoms have not been available in different varieties until 2019. The Female Health Company, manufacturer of the FC2 female condom, introduced the strawberry scent (red), vanilla scent (purple) and caramel (brown) globally



and in South Africa in 2019 the strawberry and vanilla varieties became available.

Cupid female condoms introduced strawberry and vanilla globally in 2019. Colleagues from Match Research Unit are conducting a secondary analysis of choice of scent/colour of female condoms when female condom users are offered the natural, strawberry, and vanilla in a female condom study. Women can choose to take one or a combination of any of the available colours (FC2: plain, strawberry, or vanilla) and Cupid (plain or strawberry). Women make their initial choice at the baseline visit and subsequently at follow-up visits can change to different varieties. Results will be available in the first quarter of 2021

Condom perceptions survey



External/male and internal/female condoms are the only available multi-purpose technology (MPT) that provides triple protection, preventing unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Rebranding has been shown to be an effective demand-creation strategy for the external/male condom.

Launched in 2015, the Max external/male condom is now available in four different scents. The internal/female condom has undergone similar branding and is now available as “Maxima.”

Now that the rebranded Max/Maxima condoms have been available for several years it is important to evaluate how these and other brands of condoms are perceived, accessed, and used. The aim of this study is to evaluate male and female youth condom perceptions with a focus on the perceptions of the Department of Health branded Max/Maxima condoms.

A national survey will be conducted using an on-line anonymous survey with youth aged 16-35 (male and female) distributed as a link via permissions from collaborating organisations.

This study is funded by UNFPA South Africa.

MEDIA UPDATES

Here are a few barrier contraceptive publications that you may have missed!

In May, Donna J. Drucker, published an article in The MIT Reader, analyzing representations of cervical caps and diaphragms in English and American literature. In [The symbolic use of barrier contraceptives in American and English literature](#), Drucker explores the way these contraceptive methods have been used by authors to suggest themes around premarital, extramarital, and unwanted sex as well as sending messages about difficulty of use and class.

In [NGOs in health sector asked to promote female condoms](#) published by Nwasa Times in November, Alike Mundo-Mana writes that despite low uptake of the internal/female condom in Malawi, the M'mbelwa District Council has instructed non-governmental organizations operating in the district to promote the internal/female condom as is done with the external/male condom.

A note on terminology

In order to acknowledge that people of many genders and lived experiences have a cervix and may use barrier methods of contraception, including non-binary people, men, women, and people with a range of other gender identities, we use gender-neutral terminology throughout this site except when referring to products and research that specifically use the term “woman” or “female”. In addition, to recognize both the terminology used widely in global contexts, as well as the name-change adopted in 2018 by the US Food and Drug Administration, we use the terms “internal condom” and “female condom” interchangeably.



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