

## **Family Planning Services: Yorkshire Region Pill Audit**

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**Background:** The instructing doctors of the Yorkshire region meet on regular basis and undertaken audit across the region. The current topic is reviewing the knowledge of clients using oral contraception.

**Aims of the audit:** Assess knowledge of pill taking in clients using family planning services across Yorkshire region, identify areas of poor knowledge, devise strategy to improve knowledge, reaudit to see if improvement

**Methodology;** Questionnaire of clients taking oral contraception, first questionnaire distributed in one week in January 2001, assess results and decide strategy for change, repeat questionnaire

**Results:** 7 services participated and returned 861 questionnaires. The modal for age of attendance was 16 –19 years. There were 25 different pills prescribed with a levonorgestrel pill in the predominance. About 50 % had been taking the pill for more than 2 years.

When the data was analysed by age, the teenagers were very confident about the pill but appeared to be less knowledgeable about how to take the pill and what to do if a missed pill.

When analysed by length of time on the pill, there appears to be a learning curve. For instance, the longer on the pill the more important high blood pressure becomes for stopping the pill and the pill is seen as less reliable.

The instructing doctors have discussed the results and decided that funding was needed to seek expert advice from an educationalist and focus group work with teenagers to look at the key messages we need to get over and how that can be done better.

Any initiatives identified are to be tried out in an area and compared with another to see if there is any change in knowledge levels, especially among the teenage population.