



## Effective Health Care

### Effectiveness of Cervical Caps for Conception Nomination Summary Document

#### Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Effectiveness of cervical caps for conception is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available for a review at this time.

#### Topic Description

**Nominator:** Organization

**Nomination Summary:** The nominator is interested in the effectiveness of cervical caps as an aid to becoming pregnant, including comparisons to intrauterine insemination and in vitro fertilization, and with consideration of any specific patient populations for whom cervical caps may be of benefit.

**Staff-Generated PICO:**

**Population(s):** Women trying to get pregnant

**Intervention(s):** Cervical caps

**Comparator(s):** Intrauterine insemination, in vitro fertilization

**Outcome(s):** Pregnancy

**Key Questions from Nominator:**

1. For couples trying to get pregnant, how effective are cervical caps?
  - a. Are they effective compared with intrauterine insemination?
  - b. How do they compare to in vitro fertilization?
  - c. Do they work better for any particular age or type of patient?

#### Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Infertility services are used frequently in the US by women and couples who have difficulty conceiving or maintaining pregnancy. Although cervical caps are primarily used as barrier devices to prevent pregnancy, there is some interest in and documented use of cervical caps as a fertility aid. If cervical caps are shown to be effective for conception, they may represent a low cost option with potentially fewer risks than other fertility aids.
- A search of the existing literature on the use of cervical caps for conception revealed very few studies. Given this small body of literature, this topic is not feasible for a full systematic review at this time.