

Mercy

You are running a weekend clinic. It is Saturday morning. You speak with Mercy, an embarrassed-looking teenager who has requested the contraceptive pill and emergency contraception. Mercy looks to be about 16 years old.

How would you discuss the confidentiality of the consultation – what phrases would you use?

Mercy tells you that she had intercourse with her boyfriend four nights ago and the condom split. She is very embarrassed at having to ask for emergency contraception.

After talking with her, she tells you that she is a 16-year-old college student and has been with her boyfriend for two months. Her boyfriend is 21 years old. He has asked her not to tell anyone about him. Mercy has not told her mum about her boyfriend, and she tells you she thinks her “mum will go mad because of his age”.

Mercy does not want a copper IUD to be fitted.

What safeguarding issues would you consider in this scenario?

You decide that a safeguarding referral is necessary, what words would you use to explain this to Mercy?

Would you supply emergency contraception and if so which type?

Mercy is on day 25 of a regular 28-day cycle so you agree to provide levonorgestrel. She will not agree to having a copper IUD fitted. You go onto discuss ongoing contraception. Her friend has Lucette pills, and these are good for her skin.

Mercy would like to try these how do you respond?

You suggest that Mercy tries Rigevidon® and then you review this if she develops skin problems, however she is only prepared to take Lucette®

What do you do next?