



## FEMALE CONDOM

<b>DEFINITION</b>	The Reality female condom is a barrier method of contraception. Reality is a polyurethane sheath, which fits inside the vagina. One end anchors the condom against the cervix, while the other end remains outside the vagina after insertion. Reality contains a lubricant and provides full barrier protection of the vagina and part of the vulva. Provides very good protection against STI's as long as the condom does not slip out of place or is torn.
<b>SUBJECTIVE</b>	May include: 1. No history of allergy in client or partner to any component of the condom (polyurethane). Note: Can be used by latex-allergic individuals. 2. No known history of vaginal/cervical anomalies.
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	May include: 1. Vaginal abnormalities which preclude use of device, such as vaginal septum. (Can be used by women with a retroverted uterus.)
<b>LABORATORY</b>	N/A
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	Candidate for use of female condom.
<b>PLAN</b>	1. Provide client with manufacturer's instructions. 2. Discussion with women regarding comfort level with her body. (Use of the female condom requires a woman to be very comfortable with her own body.) 3. Offer ECP as needed
<b>CLIENT EDUCATION</b>	1. Review client education handout(s). Review manufacturer's inserts. Review side effects, complications, efficacy and danger signs. Note: Stress that the female condom cannot be used with a male latex condom and female condoms are not reusable. 2. Review safer sex education, as appropriate. 3. Recommend that client RTC for method evaluation annually and PRN for problems. 4. Efficacy rate is 95% with perfect use. Typical use has 21% failure rate in first year.
<b>CONSULT/ REFER TO PHYSICIAN</b>	1. No specific need to refer to physician.

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### References:

1. Hatcher, R. A., Trussell, J., Nelson, A.L., Cates, W., Kowal, D., Policar, M. (2011) *Contraceptive Technology*. (20<sup>th</sup> revised ed.). 50, 66,392-394, 522, 782 pp. Ardent Media New York.