FSRH Statement: NICE Quality Standard for Contraceptive Services

FSRH welcomes the publication of the NICE Quality Standard for Contraceptive Services. This document sets the benchmark for high-quality contraceptive services and ensuring that women have access to the full range of contraceptive methods available.

The NICE Quality Standard for Contraceptive Services is intended to help commissioners, healthcare professionals and service providers to improve the quality of the contraceptive care they deliver. It comprises of the following four quality statements:

**Statement 1.** Women asking for contraception from contraceptive services are given information about, and offered a choice of, all methods including long-acting reversible contraception.

**Statement 2.** Women asking for emergency contraception are told that an intrauterine device is more effective than an oral method.

**Statement 3.** Women who request an abortion discuss contraception with a healthcare professional and are offered a choice of all methods when they are assessed for abortion and before discharge.

**Statement 4.** Women who give birth are given information about, and offered a choice of, all contraceptive methods by their midwife within 7 days of delivery.

The importance of delivering high quality contraceptive services remains clear with the UK still lagging far behind our European counterparts. Teenage birth rate data from the European Union in 2014 shows that only Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and Latvia have higher rates than the UK.

FSRH particularly welcomes the focus NICE has brought to often over-looked aspects of contraceptive care, including informing women about the effectiveness of the intrauterine device as a form of emergency contraception and offering women who give birth appropriate contraceptive support, information and care.

Dr Asha Kasliwal, FSRH President, and Specialist Committee Member for the NICE Quality Standard Committee for Contraceptive Services said:

"The publication of this Quality Standard represents a fundamental step towards achieving FSRH’s Vision of high-quality sexual and reproductive healthcare that is accessible to all, in whatever setting it is delivered.

FSRH will be supporting its members to confidently deliver the actions and interventions outlined in this Quality Standard through its nationally recognised training packages and up-to-date evidence-based clinical standards and guidance. In late 2016, we will also be publishing our Contraception Following Pregnancy guideline, which will aid members in the delivery of Quality Statement 4 – giving information about, and offering, contraceptive methods to women who have just given birth.

We hope that this Quality Standard will help healthcare professionals, service providers and commissioners alike to help reduce unintended pregnancies in their localities, while making tangible improvements in the provision of, and access to, contraception.”
Notes to editors:

- The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) is the largest UK professional membership organisation working at the heart of sexual and reproductive health (SRH), supporting healthcare professionals to deliver high quality care. It works with its 15,000 members, to shape sexual reproductive health for all. It produces evidence-based clinical guidance, standards, training, qualifications and research into SRH. It also delivers conferences and publishes The Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care. For more information please visit: www.fsrh.org
