**Leaflet for women who have had a coil fitted**

**What to expect?**

Mild abdominal cramps relieved by simple pain killers.

Minimal bleeding vaginally, which can last for a few days.

If local anaesthetic gel was used, this may leak from the vagina too.

The irregular bleeding may last longer with a hormonal coil up to 6 months.

It is safe to use tampons.

**When should I see a doctor?**

If the pain is not relieved by painkillers or new onset of abdominal pain.

Very heavy bleeding or if you have had the coil in for some time and there is a change in your bleeding pattern.

If you period is late and you have a copper coil.

Foul smelling discharge.

High temperature or fever.

If the threads cannot be felt or you can feel the stem of the coil.

Sexual intercourse has become painful.

**How often should I check the threads?**

**The first check up should be with the doctor at 4-6 weeks**. After this if you want to check for the threads you can do monthly after your period if you have them.

**What should I do if I cannot feel the threads?**

You should start using condoms as you may not be protected from pregnancy. You should also see a doctor straightaway. If you have had sex recently you might need emergency contraception.