

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) in the next section has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

1. Why am I using NuvaRing?

NuvaRing contains the active ingredient etonogestrel and ethinylestradiol. NuvaRing is a contraceptive vaginal ring used to prevent pregnancy.

For more information, see [Section 1. Why am I using NuvaRing?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I use NuvaRing?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to NuvaRing or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see [Section 2. What should I know before I use NuvaRing?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with NuvaRing and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in [Section 3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How do I use NuvaRing?

- **Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using NuvaRing because it contains important information for you.**
- NuvaRing is intended to be inserted into the vagina. You can insert and remove NuvaRing yourself. Your doctor will tell you when to start using NuvaRing for the first time.
- NuvaRing must be inserted on the correct day in your monthly cycle and left in place for 3 consecutive weeks.

More instructions can be found in [Section 4. How do I use NuvaRing?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while using NuvaRing?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.• If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.• If you get any side effects talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.• Read the leaflet also regularly if you are already using NuvaRing. This is important because the information in the leaflet may change.
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass on to others.• Do not use this medicine if you are pregnant, or think you might be pregnant.
Driving or using machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NuvaRing is unlikely to affect your ability to drive or use machines.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Store your NuvaRing in the original sachet below 30°C.• Protect from light and freezing.• Do not use a NuvaRing if it was dispensed to you more than 4 months ago. The dispensing date is shown on the carton.

For more information, see [Section 5. What should I know while using NuvaRing?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

Common side effects include abdominal pain, nausea, yeast infection in vagina (such as thrush), vaginal discomfort due to the ring, genital itching, secretion from the vagina, headache or migraine, low mood, lower sex drive, breast pain, painful periods, acne, weight gain and the ring falling out. Serious side effects include blood clots in a vein or artery and cancer. For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see [Section 6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

NuvaRing®

Active ingredient(s): *etonogestrel and ethinylestradiol*

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using NuvaRing. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using NuvaRing.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I using NuvaRing?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I use NuvaRing?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I use NuvaRing?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using NuvaRing?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I using NuvaRing?

NuvaRing contains the active ingredients etonogestrel and ethinylestradiol.

NuvaRing is a contraceptive vaginal ring used to prevent pregnancy. Each ring contains a small amount of two female sex hormones - etonogestrel and ethinylestradiol. The ring slowly releases these hormones into the blood circulation. Etonogestrel (11.7 mg) and ethinylestradiol (2.7 mg) are released from the ring at a rate of 0.120 mg/day and 0.015 mg/day respectively, each for 3 weeks. Because of the low amount of hormones that is released, NuvaRing is considered a low-dose hormonal contraceptive. Since NuvaRing releases two different types of hormones it is a so-called combined hormonal contraceptive.

NuvaRing works just like a combined contraceptive pill (the Pill) but instead of taking a pill every day, the ring is used for 3 weeks in a row. NuvaRing releases two female sex hormones that prevent the release of an egg cell from the ovaries. If no egg is released you cannot become pregnant. An advantage of NuvaRing is that you do not have to remember to take a pill every day.

NuvaRing is very reliable, but as for all contraceptive methods, protection is never 100%. If NuvaRing is used according to the directions, your chance of getting pregnant is less than 0.7% per year. For comparison purposes, if combined oral contraceptives are used diligently, the chance of getting pregnant is expected to be about 0.1% and if progestogen only pills ("mini pills") are used about 0.3%. Your chance of getting pregnant increases if NuvaRing is not used exactly according to the directions.

2. What should I know before I use NuvaRing?

General Notes

In this leaflet, several situations are described where you should stop using NuvaRing, or where NuvaRing may be less reliable. In such situations you should not have intercourse or you should take extra non-hormonal contraceptive precautions such as using a male condom or another barrier method. Do **not** use rhythm or temperature methods. These methods can be unreliable because NuvaRing alters the monthly changes of the body temperature and of the cervical mucus.

NuvaRing, like other hormonal contraceptives, does not protect against HIV infection (AIDS) or any other sexually transmitted disease.

In some situations you should not use a combined hormonal contraceptive. Tell your doctor if any of the following conditions apply to you. Your doctor may then advise you to use a different (non-hormonal) method of birth control.

Warnings

Do not use NuvaRing if:

- you are allergic to ethinylestradiol or etonogestrel, or any of the ingredients of NuvaRing listed at the end of this leaflet.
- you have, or have ever had a disorder affecting the blood vessels. In particular, this applies to conditions relating to thrombosis. Thrombosis is the formation of a blood clot. This may occur in the blood vessels of the legs (deep vein thrombosis), the lungs (pulmonary embolism), the heart (heart attack), the brain (stroke), or other parts of the body.
- you have ever had a heart attack, or a stroke, or if you have (or have ever had) a condition that may be a first sign of a heart attack (such as angina pectoris, or severe chest pain) or stroke (such as a transient ischaemic attack [a TIA - a slight temporary stroke]).
- you have a serious risk factor, or several risk factors for developing a blood clot - **see also section 5. [What should I know while using NuvaRing?](#), Blood clots (Thrombosis).**
- you have a disorder affecting the blood clotting, for instance protein C deficiency.
- you have major surgery (e.g., an operation) and your ability to move around is limited for a long period of time (**see section 5. [What should I know while using NuvaRing?](#), Blood clots (Thrombosis).**)
- you have (or had) a type of migraine called 'migraine with aura' ask your doctor if you are unsure.
- you have diabetes with damaged blood vessels.

- you have (or had) an inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis) associated with high levels of fat in your blood.
- you have jaundice (yellowing of the skin) or if you have or ever had severe liver disease and your liver is not yet working normally.
- you have any unexplained vaginal bleeding.
- you have or have had cancer of the breast or the genital organs;
- you have or have had a benign or malignant tumour in the liver.
- you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant.
- you have hepatitis C and are taking the combination drug regimen ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir with or without dasabuvir and medicinal products including glecaprevir and pibrentasvir (**see in Section 3. What if I am taking other medicines?**).

If any of these conditions appear for the first time while using NuvaRing, remove the ring immediately and contact your doctor. In the meantime, use non-hormonal contraceptive measures.

For possible signs of a blood clot see section 5. What should I know while using NuvaRing?, Blood clots (Thrombosis).

In some situations you need to take special care while using a combined hormonal contraceptive.

Check with your doctor if you:

- breast-feed a baby.
- have diabetes.
- are overweight.
- have high blood pressure.
- have a heart valve disorder or a certain heart rhythm disorder.
- have an inflammation of your veins (superficial phlebitis).
- have varicose veins.
- or anyone in your immediate family has had a thrombosis, a heart attack or a stroke.
- suffer from migraine.
- have a close relative has or has ever had breast cancer.
- have epilepsy (see **Section 3. What if I am taking other medicines?**).
- or someone in your immediate family has or had high blood levels of fatty substances (cholesterol or triglycerides).
- have liver disease (for instance jaundice) or gallbladder disease (for instance gallstones).
- have Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis (chronic inflammatory bowel disease).
- have SLE (systemic lupus erythematosus; a disease affecting your natural defence system).
- have HUS (haemolytic uraemic syndrome; a disorder of blood clotting causing failure of the kidneys).
- have sickle cell anaemia (an inherited disease of the red blood cells).

- have elevated levels of fat in the blood (hypertriglyceridemia) or a positive family history for this condition. Hypertriglyceridemia has been associated with an increased risk of developing pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) in women using hormonal contraceptives.
- have an operation, or if your ability to move around is limited for a long time (**see section 5. What should I know while using NuvaRing?, Blood clots (Thrombosis)**).
- have a condition that occurred for the first time or worsened during pregnancy or previous use of sex hormones, e.g. hearing loss, porphyria (a disease of the blood), herpes gestationis (skin rash with vesicles during pregnancy), Sydenham's chorea (a disease of the nerves in which sudden movements of the body occur); hereditary and acquired angioedema (you should see your doctor immediately if you experience symptoms of angioedema such as swollen face, tongue and/or throat and/or difficulty swallowing or hives, potentially with difficulty breathing). Products containing estrogens may cause or worsen the symptoms of hereditary and acquired angioedema.
- have or have ever had chloasma (yellowish-brown pigment patches, so called 'pregnancy patches', particularly on the face); if so, avoid too much exposure to the sun or ultraviolet light.
- have a medical condition that makes it difficult to use NuvaRing - e.g. if you are constipated, have a prolapse of the uterine cervix or have pain during intercourse.
- have recently given birth you are at an increased risk of blood clots. You should ask your doctor how soon after delivery you can start using NuvaRing (**see section 5. What should I know while using NuvaRing?, Blood clots (Thrombosis)**).
- have or have ever had an allergic reaction while using NuvaRing, including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and/or throat causing difficulty in breathing or swallowing (angioedema and/or anaphylaxis).
- have a history of toxic shock syndrome (TSS).

Talk to your doctor before using NuvaRing if any of these conditions apply to you. Also if the condition develops or gets worse while you are using NuvaRing you must tell your doctor.

Even if none of the conditions listed above applies to you, it is sensible to see your doctor regularly for a medical check-up, e.g. once every year.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

NuvaRing must not be used by women, who are pregnant, or who think they may be pregnant.

If you get pregnant while using NuvaRing you should remove the ring and contact your doctor.

If you want to stop NuvaRing because you want to get pregnant, **see Section 4. How do I use NuvaRing?, 4.4 What to do if...You want to stop using NuvaRing.**

NuvaRing is not usually recommended for use during breast-feeding. The use of a hormonal contraceptive containing an estrogen is generally not recommended until

the nursing mother has completely weaned her child. If you wish to use NuvaRing while breastfeeding, please seek the advice of your doctor.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. Also tell any other doctor or dentist who prescribes another medicine (or the dispensing pharmacist) that you use NuvaRing.

Some medicines may cause particular problems when you are using combined hormonal contraceptives, such as NuvaRing.

- There are medicines that can make NuvaRing less effective in preventing pregnancy, or can cause unexpected bleeding. These include medicines used to treat:
 - epilepsy (e.g. primidone, phenytoin, phenobarbital, carbamazepine, oxcarbamazepine, topiramate, felbamate);
 - tuberculosis (e.g. rifampicin);
 - HIV infection (e.g. ritonavir, nelfinavir, nevirapine, efavirenz);
 - Hepatitis C virus infection (e.g. boceprevir, telaprevir)
 - other infectious diseases (e.g. griseofulvin).
 - high blood pressure in the blood vessels of the lungs (bosentan).
- The herbal product St. John's wort may also stop NuvaRing from working properly. If you want to use herbal products containing St. John's wort while you are already using NuvaRing you should consult your doctor first.
- If you are taking medicines or herbal products that might make NuvaRing less effective, a barrier contraceptive method should also be used. Since the effect of another medicine on NuvaRing may last up to 28 days after stopping the medicine, it is necessary to use the additional barrier contraceptive method for that long. Note: Do not use NuvaRing with a diaphragm, cervical cap, or a female condom.
- NuvaRing may also interfere with the working of other medicines - such as ciclosporin and the anti-epileptic lamotrigine.
- Do not use NuvaRing if you have Hepatitis C and are taking the combination drug regimen ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir with or without dasabuvir as this may cause increases in liver function blood test results (increase in ALT liver enzyme). NuvaRing can be restarted approximately 2 weeks after completion of treatment with the combination drug regimen. **See Section 2. What should I know before I use NuvaRing?, Warnings.**
- If you are taking other Hepatitis C drug combinations (such as glecaprevir/pibrentasvir) you may experience increased levels of the liver enzyme "alanine aminotransferase" (ALT) in the blood.

You can use tampons while using NuvaRing. Insert NuvaRing before inserting a tampon. You should be careful when removing a tampon to be sure that the ring is not accidentally pulled out. If the ring does come out, simply rinse the ring in cool to lukewarm water (do not use hot water) and immediately reinsert it.

Ring breakage has occurred when also using a vaginal product such as a lubricant or treatment for infection (**see Section 4. How do I use NuvaRing?, What to do if...Your ring breaks**).

Using spermicides or vaginal yeast products will not reduce the contraceptive efficacy of NuvaRing.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect NuvaRing.

4. How do I use NuvaRing?

- You can insert and remove NuvaRing yourself. Your doctor will tell you when to start using NuvaRing for the first time. The vaginal ring must be inserted on the correct day in your monthly cycle (**see Section 4.3 When to start with the first ring**) and left in place for 3 consecutive weeks.
- Regularly check that NuvaRing is still in your vagina (for example, before and after intercourse) to ensure that you are protected from pregnancy.
- After the third week, you take NuvaRing out and have a one week break. You will usually have your monthly period during this ring-free interval.
- While using NuvaRing, you should not use certain female barrier contraceptive methods such as a vaginal diaphragm, cervical cap, or female condom as your back-up method of birth control because NuvaRing may interfere with the correct placement and position of a diaphragm, cervical cap, or female condom.

4.1 How to insert and remove NuvaRing

1. Before inserting the ring, check it is not out of date (**see 5. What should I know while using NuvaRing?, Looking after your medicine**).
2. Wash your hands before inserting or removing the ring.
3. See figures 1 - 5 below for details

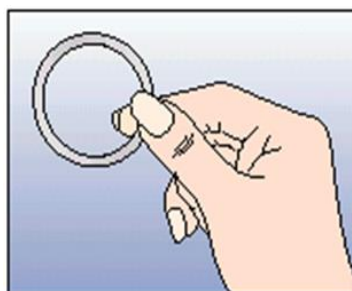


Figure 1: Take NuvaRing out of the sachet.

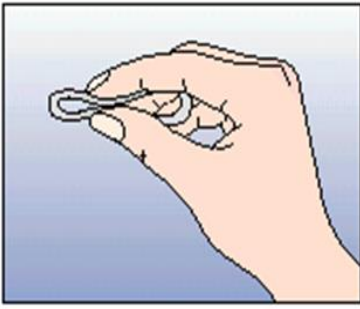


Figure 2: Hold the ring between your thumb and index finger, press the opposite sites together. Compress the ring.

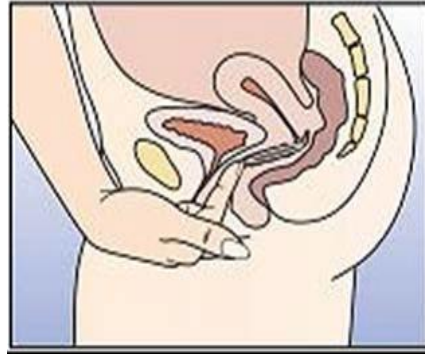


Figure 4b: Push the ring into the vagina until the ring feels comfortable. When NuvaRing is in place you should not feel anything. If you feel uncomfortable, gently change the position of NuvaRing (e.g., push the ring a bit further into the vagina) until it is comfortable. The exact position of the ring inside the vagina is not important.

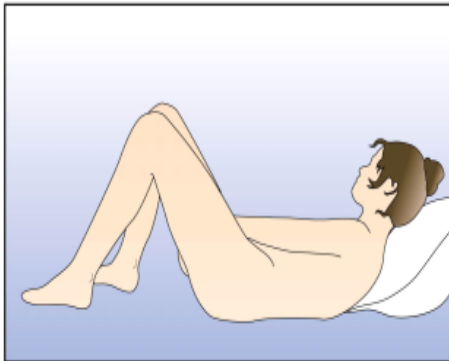
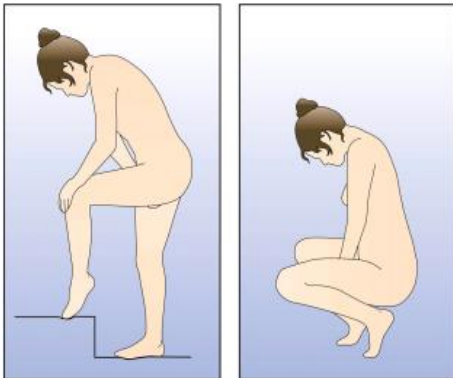


Figure 3: Choose a comfortable position to insert the ring, like standing with one leg up, squatting, or lying down.

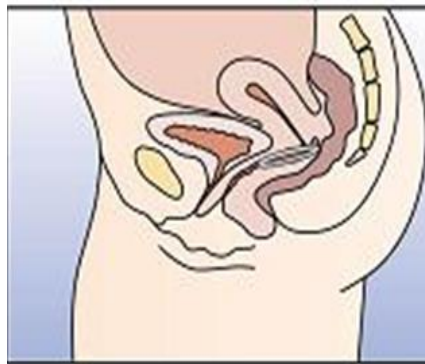


Figure 4c: Leave the ring in place for 3 weeks.

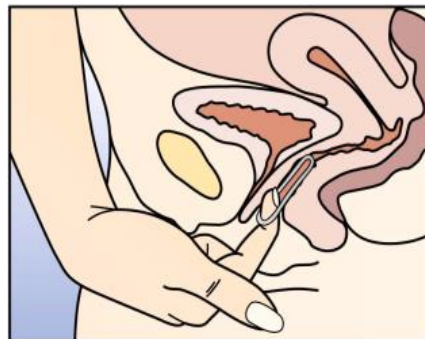


Figure 5: After 3 weeks, remove NuvaRing from the vagina. NuvaRing can be removed by hooking the index finger under the ring or by grasping the ring between the index and middle finger and pulling it out.

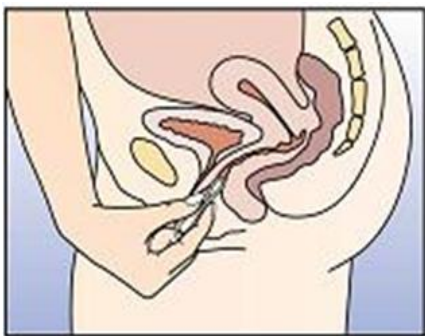


Figure 4a: Insert the ring into the vagina with one hand, if necessary the labia may be spread with the other.

4. Dispose of the used ring with the normal household waste, preferably inside the resealable sachet. Do not flush NuvaRing down the toilet.

4.2 Three weeks in, one week out

1. Starting with the day you put it in, the vaginal ring must be left in place **without interruption** for 3 weeks.
2. After 3 weeks you remove the ring on the same day of the week and at approximately the same time as it was put in. For example, if you put NuvaRing in on a Wednesday at about 22.00 h, you should remove the ring 3 weeks later, on Wednesday, at about 22.00 h.

3. After you have removed the ring, you do not use a ring for 1 week. During this week a vaginal bleed should occur. Usually this starts 2-3 days after removal of NuvaRing.
4. Start a new ring exactly after the 1 week interval (again on the same day of the week and approximately the same time), even if you have not stopped bleeding. If the new ring is inserted more than 3 hours too late, the protection from pregnancy may be reduced. Follow the instructions in **Section 4.4 What to do if...You have forgotten to insert a new ring after the ring-free interval.**

If you use NuvaRing as described above, your vaginal bleed will take place every month on roughly the same days.

4.3 When to start with the first ring

- **You have not used a hormonal contraceptive during the last month.**

Insert the first NuvaRing on the first day of your natural cycle (i.e. the first day of your menstrual period). NuvaRing starts working straight away. You don't need to take any other contraceptive precautions.

You can also start NuvaRing between day 2 and day 5 of your cycle, but if you have sexual intercourse during the first 7 days of NuvaRing use make sure that you also use an additional contraceptive method (such as a male condom). You only have to follow this advice when you use NuvaRing for the first time.

- **You have used a combined Pill during the last month.**

Start using NuvaRing at the latest the day following the tablet-free period of your present Pill. If your Pill pack also contains inactive tablets, start NuvaRing at the latest on the day after the last inactive tablet. If you are not sure which tablet this is, ask your doctor or pharmacist. Never extend the hormone-free interval of your current Pill pack beyond its recommended length.

If you have used the Pill consistently and correctly and if you are sure that you are not pregnant, you can also stop taking the Pill on any day of your current Pill pack and start using NuvaRing immediately.

- **You have a transdermal patch during the last month.**

Start using NuvaRing at the latest the day following your usual patch-free break. Never extend the patch-free break beyond its recommended length.

If you have used the patch consistently and correctly and if you are sure that you are not pregnant, you can also stop using the patch on any day and start using NuvaRing immediately.

- **You have used a minipill (progestagen-only pill) during the last month.**

You can stop taking the minipill any day and start NuvaRing the next day, at the same time you would have normally taken your pill. But make sure you also use an additional contraceptive method (such as a male condom) for the first 7 days of ring use.

- **You have an injectable or an implant or a progestagen-releasing intrauterine device (IUD) during the last month.**

Start using NuvaRing when your next injection is due or on the day that your implant or your progestagen-releasing IUD is removed. But make sure you also use an additional contraceptive method (such as a male condom) for the first 7 days of ring use.

- **After having a baby.**

If you have just had a baby, your doctor may tell you to wait until after your first normal period before you start using NuvaRing. Sometimes it is possible to start sooner. Your doctor will advise you. If you are breast-feeding and want to use NuvaRing, you should discuss this first with your doctor.

- **After a miscarriage or an abortion**

Your doctor will advise you.

- **When you have had irregular cycles or no bleeding**

Your doctor will advise you.

4.4 What to do if...

- **Your ring is accidentally expelled from the vagina**

NuvaRing may accidentally be expelled from the vagina for example, if it has not been inserted properly, while removing a tampon, during sexual intercourse, during constipation, or if you have a prolapse of the womb. Therefore, it is a good habit to regularly check whether the ring is still in your vagina (for example, before and after intercourse).

- **Your ring has temporarily been out of the vagina**

NuvaRing might still protect you from getting pregnant depending on how long it has been out of your vagina.

If the ring has been out of your vagina for:

- **less than 3 hours,**

It will still protect you from pregnancy. You should rinse the ring with cold to lukewarm water (do not use hot water) and put the ring back in as soon as possible but only if the ring has been out of the vagina for less than 3 hours.

- **more than 3 hours during the 1st and 2nd week,**

it may not protect you from pregnancy. You should rinse the ring with cold to lukewarm water (do not use hot water) and put the ring back in the vagina as soon as you remember, and leave the ring in place without interruption for at least 7 days. Use a male condom if you have sexual intercourse during these 7 days. If you are in your 1st week, and you had sexual intercourse during the past 7 days, there is a possibility you may be pregnant. In that case contact your doctor.

- **more than 3 hours in the 3rd week,**

it may not protect you from pregnancy. You should discard that ring and choose between one of the following two options:

1. Insert a new ring immediately:

This will start the next 3-week use period. You may not have your period, but breakthrough bleeding and spotting may occur.

2. Do not insert the ring again. Have your period first and insert a new ring no later than 7 days from the time the previous ring was removed or fell out. You should only choose this option if you have used NuvaRing continuously during the previous 7 days.

- **an unknown amount of time,**

you may not be protected from pregnancy. Perform a pregnancy test and consult your doctor prior to inserting a new ring.

- **Your ring breaks**

Very rarely NuvaRing may break. A broken ring is unlikely to cause an overdose because the ring will not release a higher amount of contraceptive hormones. Vaginal injury associated with ring breakage has been reported.

If NuvaRing breaks, expulsion of the ring is likely to occur (see Section 4.4 What to do if...Your ring has temporarily been out of the vagina). Therefore, if you notice that your NuvaRing has broken, discard that ring and replace it with a new ring as soon as possible.

- **You have forgotten to insert a new ring after the ring-free interval**

If your ring-free interval was longer than 7 days, put a new ring in as soon as you remember. Use extra contraceptive precautions (such as a male condom) if you have sexual intercourse during the next 7 days. If you had sexual intercourse in the ring-free interval, there is a possibility you may be pregnant. In that case contact your doctor immediately. The longer the ring-free interval, the higher the risk that you have become pregnant.

- **You have forgotten to remove the ring**

- If your ring has been left in place for between 3 and 4 weeks, it will still protect you from pregnancy. Have your regular ring-free interval of one week and subsequently insert a new ring.
- If your ring has been left in place for more than 4 weeks there is a possibility of becoming pregnant. Contact your doctor before you start with a new ring.

- **You have missed a menstrual period**

- **You have followed the instructions for NuvaRing**

If you have missed a menstrual period but you followed the instructions for NuvaRing, and have not used other medicines it is very unlikely that you are pregnant. Continue to use NuvaRing as usual. If you miss your menstrual period twice in a row, however, you may be pregnant. Tell your doctor immediately. Do not start the next NuvaRing until your doctor has checked you are not pregnant.

- **If you have not followed the instructions for NuvaRing**

If you have missed a menstrual period and you did not follow the instructions, and you do not have your expected period in the first normal ring-free interval, you may be pregnant. Contact your doctor before you start with a new NuvaRing.

- **You have unexpected bleeding**

While using NuvaRing, some women have unexpected vaginal bleeding between menstrual periods. You may need to use sanitary protection. In any case, leave the ring in the vagina and continue to use the ring as normal. If the irregular bleeding continues becomes heavy or starts again, tell your doctor.

- **You want to change the first day of your menstrual period**

If you follow the instructions for NuvaRing, your menstrual period (withdrawal bleed) will begin in the ring-free interval. If you want to change the day it starts, you can make the ring-free interval shorter (but never longer!). For example, if your ring-free interval begins on a Friday, you can change this to a Tuesday (3 days earlier). Simply insert your next ring 3 days earlier than usual.

If you make your ring-free interval very short (e.g. 3 days or less), you may not have your usual bleeding. You may have spotting (drops or flecks of blood) or breakthrough bleeding while using the next ring.

- **You want to delay your menstrual period**

Delay of your menstrual period (withdrawal bleed) is possible by inserting a new ring immediately after removing the current ring, with no ring-free interval between rings. You can leave the new ring inserted for up to a maximum of 3 weeks. You may experience spotting (drops or flecks of blood) or breakthrough bleeding while using this new ring. When you want your period to begin, just remove the ring. Have your regular ring-free interval of one week and subsequently insert a new ring.

- **You want to stop using NuvaRing**

You can stop using NuvaRing any time you want.

If you do not want to become pregnant, ask your doctor about other methods of birth control.

If you stop using NuvaRing because you want to get pregnant, you should wait until you have had a natural period before trying to conceive. This helps you calculate when the baby will be due.

- **You have inserted more than one ring/ Overdose**

There have been no reports of serious harmful effects due to an overdose of the hormones in NuvaRing. If you have accidentally inserted more than one ring, you may feel sick (nausea), or have vomiting or vaginal bleeding. Remove excess rings and contact your doctor if these symptoms persist or phone the Poisons Information Centre (by calling 13 11 26).

5. What should I know while using NuvaRing?

Things you should do

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.
- Read the leaflet also regularly if you are already using NuvaRing. This is important because the information in the leaflet may change.
- Regular Check-ups.
When you are using NuvaRing, your doctor may tell you to return for regular check-ups. In general, you should have a check-up every year.

Call your doctor as soon as possible if:

- you notice any changes in your own health, especially involving any of the items mentioned in this leaflet (see also [Section 2. What should I know before I use NuvaRing?](#), **Warnings** and conditions mentioned below).
- your ability to move around is limited for a long period of time or you are to have surgery. Tell your doctor at least four weeks in advance (**see also Section below, Blood clots (Thrombosis)**).
- you feel a lump in your breast. This symptom may indicate breast cancer (**see also Section below, Cancer**).
- you experience an allergic reaction, including hives, swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and/or throat causing difficulty in swallowing or potentially breathing (angioedema and/or anaphylaxis) (**see also Section 2. What should I know before I use NuvaRing?**, **Warnings**).
- you have severe pain in your abdomen.
- you have unusual, heavy vaginal bleeding. This symptom may indicate cervical cancer.
- you are going to use other medications (**see also Section 3. What if I am taking other medicines?**).
- the ring was out of the vagina for longer than 3 hours in the first week of use and you had intercourse in the 7 days before.
- you have forgotten to insert a new ring after the ring-free interval of 7 days.
- you left NuvaRing in place for more than 4 weeks. Do not start the next ring until your doctor tells you.
- you missed your period twice in a row or suspect you are pregnant. Do not start the next ring until your doctor tells you.
- you have an urgent frequent burning, and/or painful urination, and cannot locate the ring in the vagina. These symptoms may indicate accidental placement of NuvaRing into the urinary bladder.
- you locate the ring in your vagina, but are unable to remove it.

Remove NuvaRing and contact your doctor immediately if you notice possible signs of a blood clot. The symptoms are described in Section below, 'Blood clots (Thrombosis)'.

Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using NuvaRing.

Things you should not do

- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others.

Blood clots (Thrombosis)

• Blood clots in a vein

A blood clot in a vein (known as a 'venous thrombosis') can block the vein. This can happen in veins in the leg, the lung (a lung embolus), or other organs.

Using combined hormonal contraceptives, including NuvaRing, increases a woman's risk of developing a venous thrombosis compared with a woman not using any combined hormonal contraceptive. The risk of developing a blood clot in a vein is highest during the first year of using a combined hormonal contraceptive for the first time. The risk is also higher if you restart using a combined hormonal contraceptive (the same product or a different product) after a break of 4 weeks or more. The risk is not as high as the risk of developing a blood clot during pregnancy. The risk of getting a blood clot with NuvaRing is similar to the risk contraceptive pills.

If you use a combined hormonal contraceptive your risk of venous thrombosis increases further:

- the older you are;
- if one of your close relatives has had a blood clot in the leg, lung or other organ at a young age;
- if you are overweight;
- if you must have an operation, or if your ability to move around is limited for a long period of time because of any injury or illness, or you have your leg in a plaster cast.

If this applies to you, it is important to tell your doctor that you are using NuvaRing, as the treatment may have to be stopped. Your doctor may tell you to stop using your hormonal contraception several weeks before surgery or while you are less mobile. Your doctor will also tell you when you can start using NuvaRing again after you are able to move around. See also [Section 2. What should I know before I use NuvaRing?](#), **Warnings**;

- If you gave birth less than a few weeks ago.

• Blood clots in an artery

A blood clot in an artery can cause serious problems. For example, a blood clot in an artery in the heart causes a heart attack, or in the brain causes a stroke. Extremely rarely blood clots can occur in the liver, gut, kidney or eye.

The use of a combined hormonal contraceptive has also been connected with an increased risk of clots in the arteries. This risk increases further:

- the older you are;
- **if you smoke.**

When using a combined hormonal contraceptive like NuvaRing you are strongly advised to stop smoking, especially if you are older than about 35 years;

- if you are overweight;
- if you have high blood pressure.

If you develop high blood pressure while using NuvaRing, you may be told to stop using it;

- if a close relative has had a heart attack or stroke at a young age;
- if you have a high level of fat in your blood (cholesterol or triglycerides);
- if you have diabetes;
- if you get migraine;
- if you have a problem with your heart (valve disorder, disturbance of the rhythm).

- **Symptoms of blood clots**

Remove NuvaRing and contact your doctor immediately if you notice possible signs of a blood clot, such as:

- unusual pain and/or swelling in one of your legs;
- severe pain in the chest which may reach the left arm;
- sudden breathlessness;
- sudden cough without an obvious cause;
- any unusual, severe or long-lasting headache or worsening of migraine;
- partial or complete blindness or double vision;
- difficulty in speaking or inability to speak;
- giddiness or fainting;
- weakness, strange feeling, or numbness in any part of your body.

Following a blood clot recovery is not always complete. Very occasionally serious permanent disabilities may occur or the blood clot may even be fatal.

Cancer

The information given below was obtained from studies of women who used combined oral hormonal contraceptives, such as the combined pill, and from an additional study that included both oral and non-oral hormonal contraceptives, such as NuvaRing.

In studies with the combined pill, breast cancer has been found slightly more often in women using combined pills, but it is not known whether this is caused by the treatment. For example, it may be that tumours are found more in women on combined pills because they are examined by the doctor more often. The increased occurrence of breast cancer becomes gradually less after stopping the combined pill, so that 10 years after stopping the extra risk has gone.

In the additional study that included both oral and non-oral hormonal contraceptives, such as NuvaRing, the occurrence of breast cancer was reported to increase the longer the women used the contraceptive. The difference in the reported risk of breast cancer between women who had never used the contraceptive and those who had used the contraceptive was small: 13 additional cases of breast cancer per 100,000 women-years.

It is important to regularly check your breasts and you should contact your doctor if you feel any lump. You should also tell your doctor if a close relative has, or ever had breast cancer ([see Section 2. What should I know before I use NuvaRing?, Warnings](#)).

In rare cases benign liver tumours and in even fewer cases, malignant liver tumours have been reported in pill users. Contact your doctor if you have unusual severe abdominal pain.

Chronic infection with Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is the single most important risk factor for cervical cancer. HPV is a sexually transmitted infection. In women who use combined oral contraceptives for a long time the chance of getting cervical cancer may be slightly higher. This finding may not be caused by the Pill itself but may be related to sexual behaviour and other factors.

Laboratory tests

If you are having any blood or urinary test, tell your health care professional that you are using NuvaRing as it may affect the results of some tests.

More about hormonal contraceptives

Combined hormonal contraceptives, like NuvaRing, may also have non-contraceptive health benefits. Your periods may be lighter and shorter. As a result, the risk of anaemia may be lower. Your period pains may become less severe or may completely disappear. Your period may be more confined to the ring-free period when you use NuvaRing.

Furthermore, the following serious disorders have been reported to occur less frequently in users of hormonal contraceptives with 50 micrograms of ethinylestradiol ('high-dosed' pills) than in non-users. This may also be the case for NuvaRing but this has not been confirmed.

- Cancer of the endometrium (the lining of the womb)
- Cancer of the ovaries
- Benign breast disease
- Ovarian cysts
- Pelvic infections (pelvic inflammatory disease or PID)
- Ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy in which the embryo implants outside of the uterus)

Driving or using machines

Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how NuvaRing affects you.

NuvaRing is unlikely to affect your ability to drive or use machines.

Looking after your medicine

- Store your NuvaRing in the original sachet below 30°C.
- Protect from light and freezing.
- Do not use a NuvaRing if it was dispensed to you more than 4 months ago. The dispensing date is shown on the carton.
- Do not use NuvaRing after the expiry date which is shown on the carton and sachet.
- Do not use NuvaRing if you notice a colour change in the ring or any visible signs of deterioration.

Follow the instructions in the carton on how to take care of your medicine properly.

Keep NuvaRing out of the reach and sight of children.

If you discover that a child has been exposed to the hormones from NuvaRing, ask your doctor for advice.

Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

If you no longer need to use this medicine or it is out of date, take it to any pharmacy for safe disposal. Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

Do not use a NuvaRing if it was dispensed to you more than 4 months ago. The dispensing date is shown on the carton and sachet.

6. Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<p>Users of NuvaRing have reported the following Common (affecting more than 1 in 100, but less than 1 in 10 women); and Uncommon (affecting more than 1 in 1000, but less than 1 in 100 women) side effects:</p> <p>Gastrointestinal-related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abdominal pain, feeling sick (nausea) • Swollen abdomen; vomiting, diarrhoea or constipation • Toothache <p>General and administration site-related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling tired, unwell or irritable; mood changes • Extra fluid in the body (oedema) • increased blood pressure <p>Injury and procedural-related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ring falling out • ring breakage <p>Kidney and urinary system-related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bladder or urinary tract infection • difficulty or pain when passing urine; strong desire or need to pass urine; passing urine more often <p>Metabolism and nutrition-related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight gain • increased appetite <p>Muscle-related</p>	<p>Speak to your doctor if you have any of these side effects and they worry you.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • back pain; muscle spasms; pain on legs or arms <p>Nervous system-related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headache or migraine • Disturbed vision; dizziness <p>Psychiatric-related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • depressive moods; lower sex drive <p>Reproductive system and breast-related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yeast infection of the vagina (such as 'thrush'); discomfort in the vagina due to the ring; genital itching; secretion from the vagina • Breast pain; painful menstrual periods • problems during intercourse, including pain, bleeding or partner feeling the ring • sore or larger breasts; fibrocystic breast disease (cysts in the breasts which may become swollen or painful) • inflammation of the cervix; cervical polyps (growth in the cervix); rolling outward of the margin of the cervix (ectropion) • genital secretion; changes to menstrual periods (e.g. periods can be heavy, long, irregular or stop altogether); pelvic discomfort; premenstrual syndrome; spasm of the uterus • vaginal infection; burning feeling, smell, pain, discomfort or dryness in the vagina or vulva <p>Skin and subcutaneous system-related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acne • hair loss, eczema, itching, rash or hot flushes • less sensitive skin 	
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Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<p>Serious reactions seen with NuvaRing, as well as the related symptoms, are described in Section 5. What should I know while using NuvaRing?, Blood clots (Thrombosis) and Cancer. Please read these sections for additional information and consult your doctor if you suffer from any of these conditions or symptoms.</p> <p>Rare side effects (affecting more than 1 in 10000, but less than 1 in 1000 women)</p> <p>Vascular-related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• blood clot in vein• blood clot in artery	<p>Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects.</p>

The following rare side effects have been reported in users of NuvaRing, but the frequency cannot be estimated from the available data:

- allergic reactions (hypersensitivity), including hives, swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and/or throat causing difficulty in breathing or swallowing (angioedema and/or anaphylaxis);
- symptoms of angioedema in patients who already have a (family) history of angioedema;
- vaginal injury associated with ring breakage;
- breast discharge;
- and penis discomfort of the partner (such as irritation, rash, itching).

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.

7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What NuvaRing contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• etonogestrel 11.7 mg• ethinylestradiol 2.7 mg
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Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ethylene vinylacetate copolymer (a type of plastic that will not dissolve in the body):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Evatane 28-25RG (proprietary ingredient 139830)○ Evatane 1020VN3 (proprietary ingredient 140194)• magnesium stearate
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Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What NuvaRing looks like

NuvaRing is flexible, transparent, colourless to almost colourless and 54 mm wide.

Each ring is packed in a resealable sachet that is made of aluminium foil. The sachet is packed in a cardboard box together with this package leaflet.

Each box contains 1 or 3 rings (Aust R 381186).

Who distributes NuvaRing

Organon Pharma Pty Ltd
Level 5, 66 King St,
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

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