



# SHARP News

## New SHARP Facts Information Sheet The Female Condom

The newest addition to the SHARP Information Sheets know as **SHARP Facts** addresses the issue of **Female Condoms**.

**SHARP FACTS** are 1 page (double sided) fact sheets on STDs, HIV, condoms, and family planning. They provide basic, evidence based information on these subjects. They are useful to download and print for distribution to active duty, reserves, and beneficiaries as part of your Health Promotion program in the area of Sexual Health and Responsibility. **SHARP Facts** are provided in .pdf format.

An Excerpt from **SHARP Facts – Female Condom**:

“In the U.S., **women** account for 32% of adult cases of HIV infection reported during the 12 months ending June 1999.<sup>1</sup> In one study, half of the pregnancies in Navy women were unplanned, and half of these women were not using any form of birth control.<sup>2</sup> Because of economic, social, and gender inequalities, **women have not always been able to successfully negotiate male condom use** with their partners.<sup>3</sup> For some women, female condoms™ may be an option for them to protect themselves from sexually transmitted disease, HIV, and unwanted pregnancy.

### What is the *Female Condom*™?

The female condom™ is made of polyurethane, a soft, thin plastic which is stronger than the latex used to manufacture most male condoms. The female condom™ is lubricated and disposable. The lubricant is non-spermicidal. It has a 5-year shelf life and is resistant to the deleterious effects of heat and humidity. The female condom™ fits loosely in the vagina and has a soft ring at each end. The ring at the closed end is used to put the device inside the vagina and to hold it in place during sex. The other ring (open end) stays outside the vagina.”



Download the entire Female Condom **SHARP Fact** Information Sheet at:  
<http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/sharp/resources/shrpfct.htm>

“Chart a Safe Course”