



Message from the research lead

I'm pleased to share this updated version of the Practitioner's Toolkit for Managing Menopause, the 4th or update since the 1st iteration was launched in 2014.

The Toolkit is again published with open access in Creative Commons in which it was first published, meets the needs of clinicians by providing clear evidence-based advice as to how to address and manage symptoms or concerns about menopause during clinical consultations.

It includes pragmatic algorithms to assess menopause status including that of women with a past hysterectomy or endometrial ablation and users of hormonal contraception along with treatment options and symptom management algorithms.

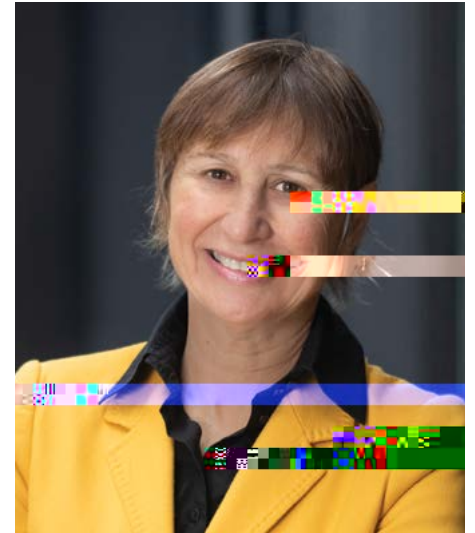
This updated version is relevant for clinicians around the world builds on the 1st publication incorporating updated advice based on new knowledge around the physiological basis of menopause and new therapeutics as well as expanding into guidance on issues of bone health. It also cuts through many years of misinformation and confusion to provide clear evidence-based guidance on the appropriate use of menopause hormone therapies (MHT), and non-hormonal therapies for women with menopause-associated symptoms.

For many years the discomfort, poor health and reduced quality of life often caused by menopause has been viewed as an unavoidable consequence of ageing, one that accrued a sense of urgency with many in society and the medical community. It's been heartening to see a change in the seriousness with which menopause has been viewed over the last decade. This has been backed up by increased research funding, greater international collaboration, and older women's voices sharing their experiences and demanding positive action in the media. This document can serve as a comprehensive guide for shared decision-making with patients, and thus provide patient-informed care.

I hope the Toolkit will help health practitioners around the world deliver informed care that genuinely responds to the needs of all the women who have or will inevitably experience menopause.

I'd like to thank the team of dedicated researchers who assisted in this update, Dr Asha Taylor, Dr Chandni Heachandra, Dr Karen Magraith, Professor Peter Rebein, Dr Fiona Jane, and Dr Raibu Isa, and Professor Rodney Baber for his advice.

PROFESSOR SUSAN DAVIS AO



About Professor Davis AO

Professor Susan Davis AO is a leading endocrinologist, researcher, who heads the Women's Health Research Program within the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University, Australia. She has specific expertise in the role of sex hormones in women across the lifespan. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, a co-founder of Jean Hailes for Women, a past President of the Australasian Menopause Society and of the International Menopause Society.

A Practitioner's Toolkit for Managing Menopause

A Woman# (40 years+) presents with:

Symptoms

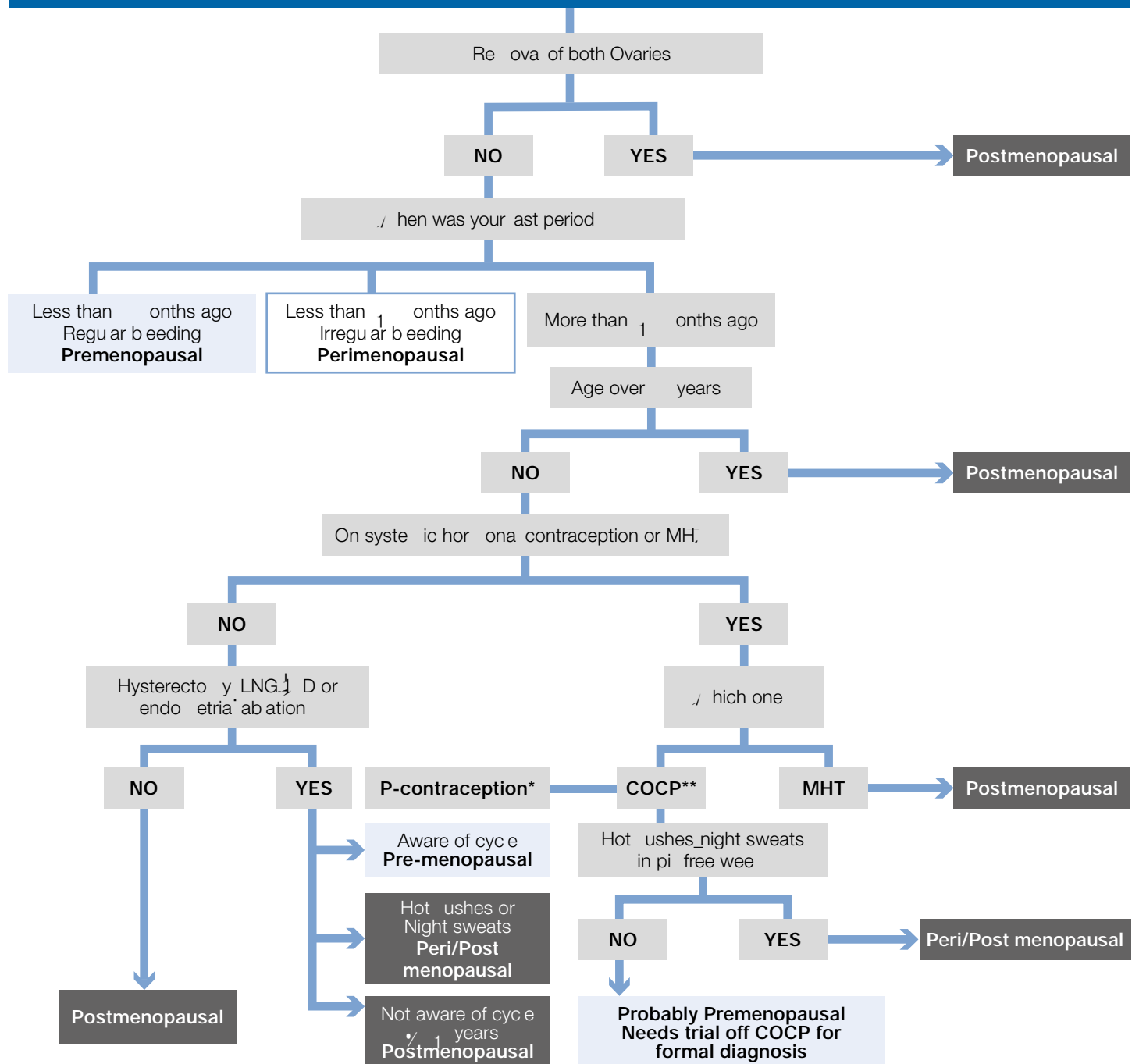
- Irregular bleeding
- Vasomotor: Hot flashes, Night sweats
- Poor sleep
- Joint pain
- Anxiety/low mood
- Cognitive concerns
- ↓rogenital symptoms: vaginal dryness, soreness, Bladder/urinary x
- Lost interest in sex
- Central weight gain

AND/OR

Concerns

- Osteoporosis
- Cardiovascular risk
- Dementia
- Diabetes
- Obesity

Is this Patient Pre/Peri/Postmenopausal?

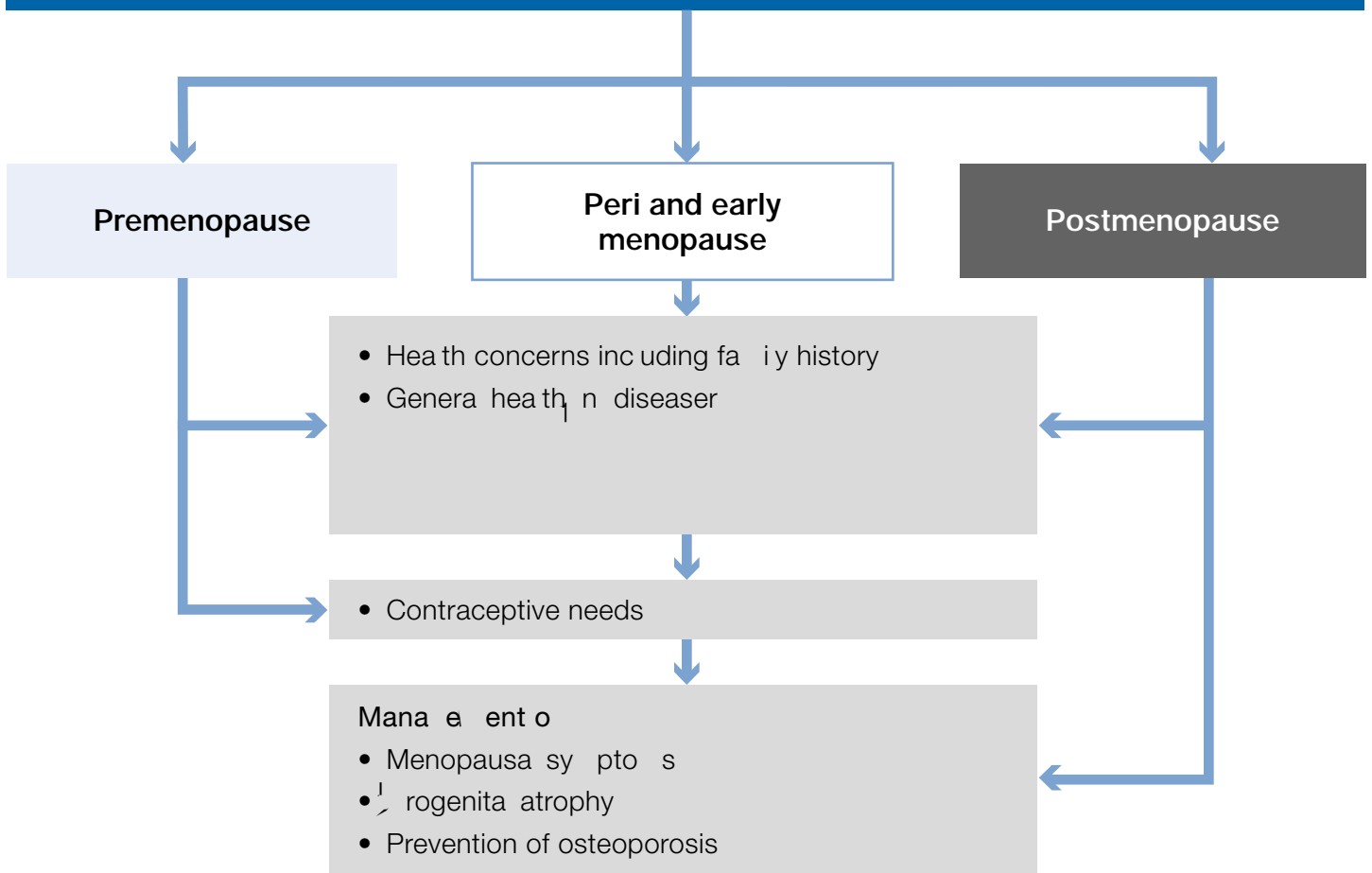


Assessment of a patient's menopausal status requires detailed reproductive history. In some women an option is to cease COCP and then review

Full assessment recommended for midlife women



Patient care considerations



Management of Perimenopause

COCP	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review contraindications to COCP May control PM _ astalgia_b eeding Low dose EE and E_estetro COCP preferred
Continuous E and LNG-IUD	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces_e i_inates b eeding but not cyc_ica sy_pto_s
Continuous E and cyclical P	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irregular b eeding _ay occur Cyc_ica sy_pto_s _ay occur Not contraceptive
Continuous E and cyclical 4mg drospirinone# / 75 mcg desogestrel OCP#	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides contraception A_enorrhoea or irregular b eeding _ay occur

o _abe use_ deso_estre _ay not _ive adequate endo_etra protection

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Identify and treat the main issues in addition to general health assessment and care

Discuss prevention of urogenital

Consider urogenital symptoms, medications, medical conditions, psychosocial/cultural factors, knowledge

Systemic hormone therapy

Estrogen Plus Progestin
Oral
Ethinyl diethyl oestradiol
Ethinyl diethyl oestradiol
Ethinyl diethyl oestradiol

IF HYSTERECTOMY:

Oral
Oral

- RAS inhibitor
- NK1 antagonist
- Oxybutynin
- Hypnosis
- CBT therapy
- Clonidine
- Gabapentin

Testosterone therapy only if sexual desire dysfunction identified

Indications for non-oral E

- Hypertriglyceridaemia
- Hepatobiliary disease
- Migraine
- Age > 65 years and no prior MH
- Established CVD
- Past VTE
- Diabetes

Caution

High breast cancer risk

Estrogen dependent cancer

Active VTE disease, thrombophilia

Person who wish not to use hormones

Undiagnosed genital bleeding

Severely active liver disease

Untreated uncontrolled CVD

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	Low dose	Mid-range dose	Highest dose [#]
CEE	0.625 mg	1.25 mg	2.5 mg
17 estradiol	0.025 mg	0.05 mg	0.1 mg
Estradiol valerate	0.025 mg	0.05 mg	0.1 mg
Estriol	0.025 mg		
Transdermal estradiol patch	0.025 mg	0.05 mg	0.1 mg
Estradiol gel	0.025 mg	0.05 mg	
Estradiol hemihydrate gel	0.025 mg	0.05 mg	0.1 mg
Estradiol hemihydrate skin spray	0.025 mg	0.05 mg	0.1 mg

Sequential P – daily dose for 12-14 days per month for endometrial protection:

	With Low dose E	With mid to highest dose E
Dydrogesterone (oral)	1 mg	2 mg
Micronized progesterone (oral)	100 mg efficacy of lower dose not established	200 mg
Medroxyprogesterone acetate (oral)	1 mg	2 mg
Norethisterone acetate (oral)	1 mg	2 mg
Transdermal norethisterone acetate (with estradiol) patch		releases 200 µg per day

Continuous P – daily dose for endometrial protection:

	Low dose E	With mid to highest dose E
Dydrogesterone (oral)	1 mg	2 mg
Drospirenone (oral)	2.5-5mg	2.5-5mg

