



# What’s the difference between the hormonal IUD and copper IUD?



Both intrauterine devices are **safe, effective, long-acting reversible contraceptives**. They offer distinct side effect profiles, non-contraceptive attributes and per-unit cost to countries.

## Product Structure

Plastic frame containing 52mg of levonorgestrel	Plastic frame wrapped in copper coil
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## Effectiveness

Highly effective (99.8%). Two out of 1,000 users will get pregnant in first year of use.	Highly effective (99.2%). Eight out of 1,000 users will get pregnant in first year of use.
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## Duration of Efficacy

Approved for up to 8 years	Approved for up to 10-12 years
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## Bleeding Patterns

Irregular bleeding/spotting in initial months of use. After one year, reduced or no bleeding is common.	Longer/heavier monthly bleeding, irregular bleeding and more cramping/pain are common.
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## Non-Contraceptive Attributes

Effective treatment for long, heavy or painful monthly bleeding. May help prevent iron deficiency anemia ( <i>research ongoing</i> ).	May help protect against endometrial cancer. May worsen iron deficiency anemia for users with existing low iron.
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## Cost to LMIC Public Sector

10.90 USD or less per unit*	0.85 USD or less per unit
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## Use as Emergency Contraception

Not yet recommended by World Health Organization. Evidence suggests may be viable in the future.	Can be used within five days of unprotected sex as emergency contraception.
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## Postpartum Use

Can be inserted up to 48 hours postpartum. After 48 hours, delay until four weeks or more.
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Adapted from: World Health Organization Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research (WHO/SRH) and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/ Center for Communication Programs (CCP), Knowledge SUCCESS. Family Planning: A Global Handbook for Providers (2022 update). Baltimore and Geneva: CCP and WHO; 2022. <https://fphandbook.org/questions-and-answers-about-Ing-iud> and <https://fphandbook.org/sites/default/files/Comparing%20IUDs.pdf>. Accessed 3 June 2024.

\*Hormonal IUD is currently available at no cost to countries when purchased with UNFPA support