**CONTRACEPTION: PATIENT CASE 1**

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A 28 year-old female presents to the pharmacy complaining of unpredictable bleeding in between regular periods. She started Loestrin FE 1/20 (20 mcg EE, 1.0 mg norethindrone acetate) 2 months ago for pregnancy prevention. She states that the bleeding has occurred during the first week of her active pills during both months. Her past medical history includes migraine without aura or focal neurologic symptoms which have been well-controlled for the past 12 months. She drinks socially on weekends and does not smoke. BP 124/72 mmHg, Ht: 5’10”, Wt: 190 lbs. Medications: propranolol LA 160 mg po once daily for migraine prophylaxis and naproxen 220 mg 1-2 tablets po very 6-8 hours prn menstrual cramps.

1. What are potential causes of her unpredictable bleeding? Should the contraceptive be discontinued? Why or why not?
2. What contraindications to using combined hormonal contraceptives, if any, exist for this patient?
3. If she was picking this prescription up for the first time, how would you instruct the patient to start this oral contraceptive?
4. What would you recommend if she calls and states she missed one, two, or three doses?