## Vaginal Ring Insertion Instructions



Wash your hands with soap and dry them on a clean cloth.



Get in the position that is most comfortable for you to insert the ring, for example lying down, squatting or standing with one leg raised on a surface.





Hold and press the sides of the ring together. You may find it easier to insert the ring if you twist it into the shape of the number '8'.





Use your other hand to hold open the folds of skin around your vagina.





Place the tip of the ring in the vaginal opening and then use your finger to push the folded ring gently into your vagina.





**P**ush it up towards your lower back as far as you can. If the ring feels uncomfortable, it is probably not inserted far enough into your vagina. Use your finger to push the ring as far up into your vagina as comfortable.





The ring should now be in your upper vagina. Wash your hands when you are done. If you have trouble, contact the clinic or come in for assistance.

### Vaginal Ring Important Information



### **Leave Inserted All The Time**

The ring should be kept inserted at all times including during bathing and sex, unless instructed otherwise by a care provider or study staff.



### When to Replace

The ring should be replaced every 4 weeks for the remainder of your pregnancy.

### If the Ring Falls or is Taken Out

**Somewhere clean:** Try reinserting the ring as soon as possible. Rinse the ring in clean water and follow the insertion instructions on the other side of this document. If you cannot reinsert it right away, place the ring in the bag provided to you.



**Somewhere dirty** (such as the toilet or the ground): Do NOT reinsert the ring. Instead, place it in the bag provided to you and contact the clinic as soon as possible.

#### If You Go into Labor

Either you or the delivering doctor/nurse should remove the ring when contractions start, and store in the bag provided for you to return to the clinic at your next visit.

### **Returning Your Ring**

For all visits prior to delivery, you should return to the clinic with the ring still inserted.

Bring back to the clinic any ring you are no longer using by storing it in the bag provided to you and keeping it with you at all times to avoid loss.

### Do Not Share

Insert only the ring provided to you and do not share your ring with anyone else.



### What to Avoid



Other than the ring, using any vaginal products is not allowed (spermicides, lubricants, douches, or medications).

**D**o not take other PrEP medications during study.

#### 24 hours before study visits, do not:

- Insert vaginal objects (tampons, female condoms, sex toys, etc.)
- Engage in receptive sex (vaginal or anal), receptive oral sex or finger stimulation.

These practices may impact testing of samples collected during your visit.

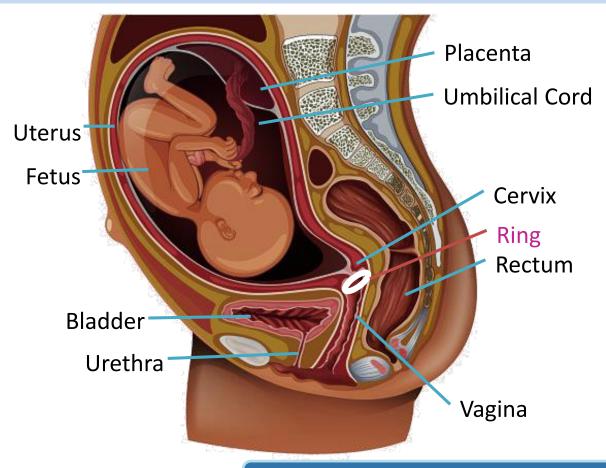
Talk to study staff before using any medications.

### **Questions or Concerns**

The study staff is here to help and support you. If you think you are experiencing side effects or have questions or concerns, please contact us between visits. [INSERT SITE SPECIFIC CONTACT INFO]

# **Anatomy of Pregnancy**





**Key Anatomy of a Pregnant Woman** 

**Fetus:** the growing baby inside the mother.

**Uterus (womb):** pear-shaped organ located in the middle of the pelvis, where a fetus grows during pregnancy.

**Vagina:** tube that connects the external opening at the base of your pelvis with your cervix and provides an opening for menstrual blood or babies to pass through. Some people put penises, fingers, sex toys, medications, and/or tampons in the vagina as well.

**Cervix:** located between the vagina and uterus, your cervix separates your vagina from the rest of your body, so things like tampons or the vaginal ring can't get "lost" inside of you. The cervix helps hold the baby inside of you during pregnancy and opens during labor to let the baby pass through.

**Placenta**: organ that forms in the uterus during pregnancy that helps provide oxygen and nutrients to the growing baby.

**Umbilical cord:** cord that delivers the nutrients and oxygen to the baby by connecting the placenta to the fetus. The cord is cut after the baby is born (forms the baby's belly button).

### Where the Ring Sits Inside of a Pregnant Woman

The ring sits at the top of the vagina, right below the opening to the cervix. The ring does not enter the uterus or touch the baby. The ring should be removed before delivering the baby.