

Correspondence between Directors of WOOMB International and Richard Fehring of Marquette University April, 2009

3rd April, 2009

Be at peace. The CNS article was not correct. We are not studying the symptom-thermal method (STM) nor the Billings Ovulation Method. We are comparing the use of an electronic hormonal fertility monitor (plus algorithm) with the self-observation of cervical mucus (plus algorithm) as methods to avoid pregnancy. The charting system is internet based. The cervical mucus monitoring/observation method that we utilize is not the Billings system.

I hope that this statement clarifies the matter for you.

With regards,

Richard J. Fehring
Professor
Marquette University

From: Marian Corkill [mailto:seniorteacher@woomb.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 3:37 AM
To: Fehring, Richard
Subject: Natural Family Planning Study

Dear Richard,

We read with interest the article put out by the Catholic News Service on 5th March, 2009 in which your Natural Family Planning study is promoted.

We write to seek clarification from you re what methods are being studied.

The Catholic News Service article states

With a \$595,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the couples will be randomly placed into a group using the sympto-thermal method of natural family planning -- which involves monitoring of the woman's daily waking temperature, changes in cervical fluid, cycle length and other signs of fertility -- or the ovulation method, based on changes in cervical fluid.

But this study will focus on the two methods that have achieved the most success, and not on the "rhythm" or "calendar" methods that often are "self-devised" and based on "guesstimates," Fehring said.

However when we go on your site and look at the two methods to be studied neither the Sympto-Thermal Method nor the Ovulation Method are mentioned.

Our concern is that the Billings Ovulation Method which is the method developed by Dr John Billings and has had success world wide is not the same as the "ovulation method" which is being taught in the USA.

The Billings Ovulation Method is taught and promoted through BOMA-USA whereas the Ovulation Method, a different method based on mucus, is taught and promoted by the Families of America.

The Billings Ovulation Method is a unique method protected by copyright and trademark. It has specific guidelines both for the manner of observations and also for the Rules of the Method to achieve or to avoid pregnancy. You would understand that there are legal implications involved.

The following statement which appears on your website certainly does not apply to the Billings Ovulation Method.

This means checking for vaginal fluids at the time you go to the bathroom and before bedtime. Checking for vaginal fluids become part of your personal hygiene and takes only a few minutes a day. Based on your daily observations you will know if you have low, high, or peak type fertile mucus.

We have had numerous contacts from people worldwide who are anxious that the Billings Ovulation Method is not seen to be connected with your Study. Please give us clarification that you are not in fact studying the Billings Ovulation Method so that we can post this statement on our website and remove any confusion.

We look forward to receiving your clarification.

Regards
Kerry Bourke, Joan Clements, Marian Corkill Marie Marshall
Directors
WOOMB International