CLAIMS

1. Use of 20 µg of ethinyl estradiol and 3 mg of drospirenone for the manufacture of a medicament for female oral contraception comprising a flexible, extended regimen, the regimen comprising:

   (a) administering to said female said 20 µg of ethinyl estradiol and 3 mg of drospirenone daily for a first administration period of 24 days;

   (b) thereafter administering to said female said 20 µg of ethinyl estradiol and 3 mg of drospirenone daily for a second administration period of:

   - 96 days, wherein immediately after said 96 days said female initiates a hormone free phase of 4 days, or
   - less than 96 days if the female observes during said second administration period three consecutive days of breakthrough bleeding or spotting, wherein immediately after said three consecutive days said female initiates a hormone free phase of 4 days; and

   (c) after said hormone free phase, administering said 20 µg of ethinyl estradiol and 3 mg of drospirenone to said female in accordance with (a) and (b) above.

2. Use according to claim 1 wherein said female initiates said hormone free phase when breakthrough bleeding occurs.

3. 20 µg of ethinyl estradiol and 3 mg of drospirenone for use in the management of unacceptable bleeding, which is breakthrough bleeding or spotting, during female oral contraception comprising a flexible, extended regimen, the regimen comprising:

   (a) administering to said female said 20 µg of ethinyl estradiol and 3 mg of drospirenone daily for a first administration period of 24 days;

   (b) thereafter administering to said female said 20 µg of ethinyl estradiol and 3 mg of drospirenone daily for a second administration period of:

   - 96 days, wherein immediately after said 96 days said female initiates a hormone free phase of 4 days, or
   - less than 96 days if the female observes during said second administration period three consecutive days of breakthrough bleeding or spotting, wherein immediately after said three consecutive days said female initiates a hormone free phase of 4 days; and

   (c) after said hormone free phase, administering said 20 µg of ethinyl estradiol and 3 mg of drospirenone to said female in accordance with (a) and (b) above.

4. 20 µg of ethinyl estradiol and 3 mg of drospirenone for use according to claim 3, wherein said female initiates said hormone free phase when breakthrough bleeding occurs.