

## 2.6 Missing String(s)

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DEFINITION:	If the IUC string(s) are missing, it may mean the IUC has been expelled, the string(s) have wrapped around the IUC or the IUC has perforated the uterus. Management differs depending upon patient's pregnancy status.
SUBJECTIVE:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Denies IUC expulsion.</li><li>2. IUC string(s) not felt.</li><li>3. Menstrual history update not consistent with pregnancy.</li></ol>
OBJECTIVE:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Pelvic exam not consistent with intrauterine pregnancy.</li><li>2. Endocervical inspection may or may not reveal string(s).</li></ol>
LABORATORY:	Negative urine pregnancy test.
ASSESSMENT:	IUC string(s) not visible.
PLAN:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Refer for ultrasound.</li><li>2. Offer/provide Emergency Contraception (EC) if intercourse in last 5 days.</li><li>3. Confer with provider as necessary.</li></ol>
PATIENT EDUCATION:	Advise alternate birth control method until evaluation is complete.
REFER TO PHYSICIAN:	Any question of possible partial expulsion of IUC.

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