## Additional File 7 Additional Information

The Additional file 7 contains additional information for:

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Figure S1. Previous cohort studies on use of hormonal contraceptives and new-onset asthma in women.

In a German prospective community-based cohort study<sup>1</sup> of 1,191 girls aged 9–11 years followed into early adulthood (19–24 years old), ever use of hormonal contraceptives was associated with decreased odds of new-onset asthma (odds ratio [OR] 0.27, 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.12–0.58); in a national UK cohort study<sup>2</sup> of 564,896 women aged 16–45 years, past or current use of hormonal contraceptives was associated with a decreased risk of new-onset asthma, with hazard ratios (HRs) ranging from 0.59 to 0.70 for different types of hormonal contraceptives; the Nurses' Health Study<sup>3</sup> including 64,237 women aged 34–68 years found that past use of hormonal contraceptives was associated with an increased risk of new-onset asthma (HR 1.25, 95% CI 1.07–1.47), and the effect estimate became even larger among naturally menopausal women (HR 1.57, 95% CI 1.16–2.12).

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; NA, not available; OR, odds ratio. <sup>a</sup> Past use of hormonal contraceptives.



## Figure S2. Simplified causal directed acyclic graphs to represent the role of body mass index for the effect of use of hormonal contraceptives on new-onset asthma in women.

A. When one is interested in the overall causal effect of use of hormonal contraceptives on new-onset asthma, adjustment for body mass index (BMI) is unwarranted. B. When one is interested in the modifying effect of BMI, stratification by BMI is justified, but would introduce a spurious association between hormonal contraceptives and new-onset asthma, in the presence of common causes of BMI and new-onset asthma (e.g., physical activity, alcohol, stress, diet). Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index. The directed acyclic graphs were drawn using DAGitty (<u>http://dagitty.net</u>).

## eReferences

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