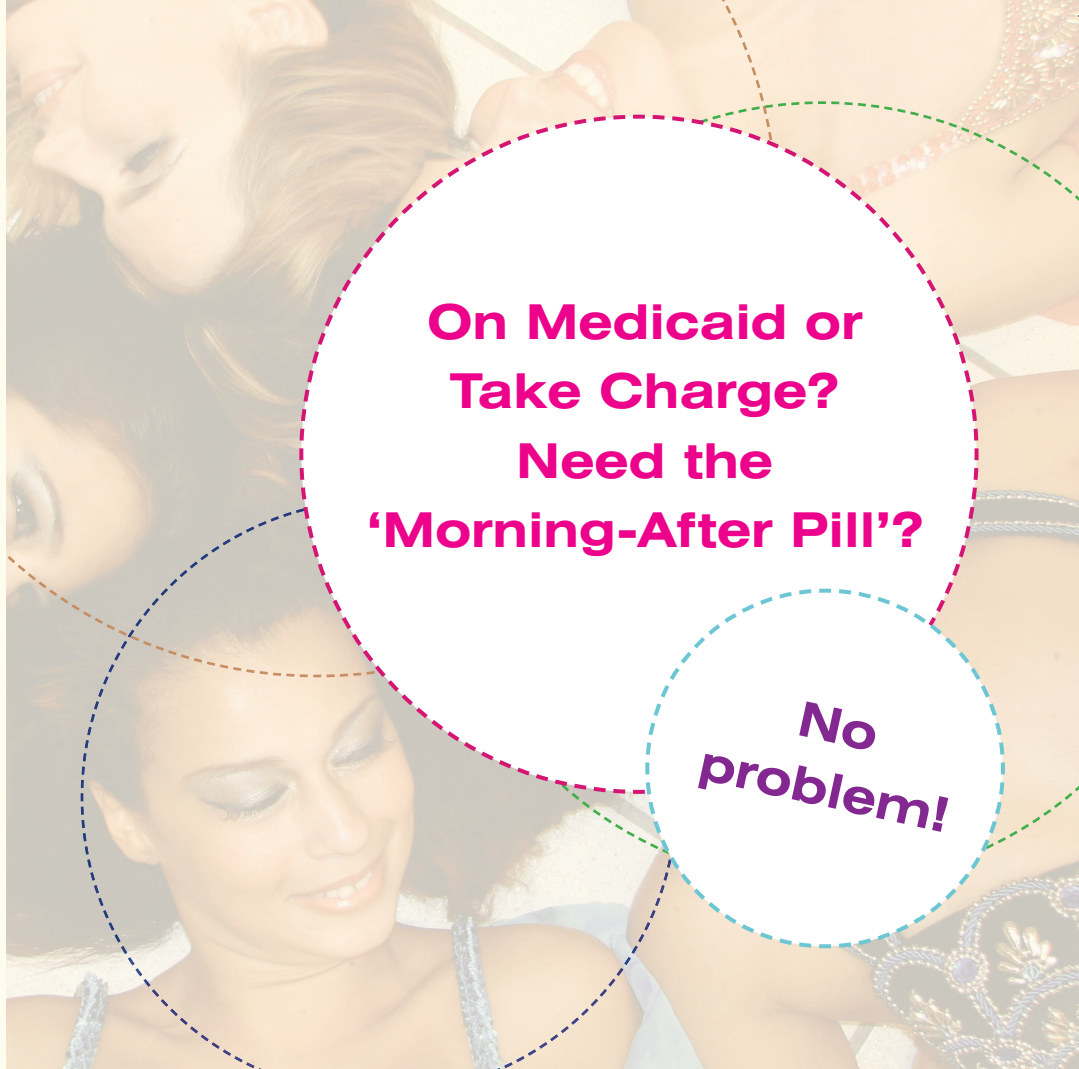


Do I Need A Prescription to Get Emergency Contraception?

Women over the age of 18 can get EC over-the-counter (without a prescription) at their local pharmacy.

Women under 18 years of age can get a prescription for the pills from any doctor or health clinic. Many health care providers require a woman to come in for an office visit before prescribing EC.

However, in Washington State there is a policy that allows women under the age of 18 to get EC without a prescription at some pharmacies. We recommend that you call your local pharmacy beforehand to see if they require women under the age of 18 to get a prescription for EC.



On Medicaid or Take Charge? Need the 'Morning-After Pill'?

No problem!

Washington State
Medicaid Pays for Plan B[®]
Emergency Contraception.

If you are on Medicaid or Take Charge, Washington State Medicaid pays for family planning supplies and medications, including emergency contraception (also known as Plan B®, the “morning-after” pill, or EC).

If your pharmacist does not know how to bill Medicaid for your EC, ask her/him to look at the following website where s/he can get more information:

http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maa/Download/BillingInstructions/Prescription%20Drug%20Program/Prescription_Drug_Program_BI.pdf

Washington State Medicaid and Emergency Contraception



What is Emergency Contraception?

EC is a strong dose of ordinary birth-control pills that prevents pregnancy if taken up to 72 hours after unprotected sex. It is extremely safe and will not harm an existing pregnancy.

If you are concerned about getting pregnant, it is smart to get EC ahead of time and keep it in your medicine cabinet. If your main form of birth control fails, is not used for any reason, or you are forced to have sex this will save you time if you decide you want to take EC.

EC may prevent pregnancy in one of two ways:

1. It may stop ovulation (release of an egg).
2. It may prevent an egg from being fertilized.

EC pills are usually taken in two doses. The first dose should be taken as soon as possible within 72 hours of unprotected sex, and the second dose 12 hours later.

How Does Emergency Contraception Work?



Where Can I Get Emergency Contraception?

You can get EC at most pharmacies in Washington State (including some on-line pharmacies), at Planned Parenthood and other clinics, and possibly from your doctor.

We recommend that you call ahead to your pharmacy or doctor to make sure they have EC in stock. You can also look at our map of Washington State to see if the pharmacy near you has EC: www.ProChoiceWashington.org.

Remember, if you are on Medicaid or Take Charge, you do not have to pay out-of-pocket for your EC.